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Lucy B. Sudweeks

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THE WILLIAM H. SHEPARDSON LETTERS

Memoirs of Early Descendants of Thomas Baker

Emigrant from Essex, England

to Newport, Rhode Island

From

William H. Shepardson, Glenwood, Iowa

to

Amenzo White Baker, Mendon, Utah

1886 - 1894

Taken from Original Letters by
Mercy Rachel Baker, Salt Lake City
1910

Compiled by

Lydia Baker Hogenson

and

Lucy Baker Sudweeks

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF UTAH
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FOREWORD

In the summer of 1941, my sister, Emma B. Sorensen, and I went to our old home, Jarvis Y. Baker's farm, now the home of John D. Baker. We drove over in our car. I had arranged with my husband, James C. Hogenson, to keep the car and remain away over-night in order that I might do some exploring. Emma went for the purpose of getting some articles out of storage to take with her to Terre Haute, Indiana.

For a year or more, I had been anxious to visit the old homestead, to get information about my father, to see his papers and keepsakes, also to look at the belongings of my deceased sister, Mercy Rachel Baker. Mercy had been dead for twenty-four years. There were boxes of papers, letters, etc., which had never been opened. They were stored in an upstairs room of the Baker home.

In our genealogical class, our instructor had, time and again, explained to us the importance of exploring attics, old trunks, and boxes for genealogical data. This I determined to do. In my searchings, I came across copies of the William H. Shepardson letters, written to my uncle, Amenzo W. Baker, many years ago. These letters had been copied by my sister, Mercy Rachel Baker, when she was on the editing committee for the "Baker Genealogy". Mr. Shepardson is a second cousin to Uncle Amenzo. He is also my father's second cousin.

Emma and I read these letters carefully. We made lists of names taken from the letters and Emma sent them to me on Temple sheets, after she returned to Terre Haute. I showed them to Frances Baker, the genealogist of the Baker Family Organization. She said the Temple work had already been done. Emma and I thought these letters should be preserved and put where they would be accessible to the many relatives.

Later, Lucy B. Sudweeks and I read these letters while I was visiting her in Provo, Utah. She was enthusiastic. We each wanted a copy and decided to have some made. When others heard of it, they wanted copies, so we had a limited number made.

Lucy was appointed Historian by the Baker Family Organization, to gather any material which might be of interest to the family. With this purpose in view, these letters are being made available.

Lydia B. Hogenson

Glenwood, Iowa, June 13th, 1886

Mr. Amenzo Baker, Mendon, Utah

Dear Cous.

Yours of the 7th. inst. came duly to hand: was glad to hear from you, and shall be happy to render you any assistance in my power in your undertaking, but fear I shall not be able to tell you much of importance. I am not a married man. I have two unmarried sisters and we three live here together. I have a little farm now, am a Carpenter and Joiner and have worked a great part of my life at that business. I came to this State in April, 1847. My father died August 31st., 1846, in what is now Union Co., Iowa. My brother and I went from here and brought my mother and sisters from there in the Spring of 1847, they arriving here in June. I have lived ever since in what is now Fremont Co. or Mills Co., but was away above three years in the Army in the war of the Rebellion. My folks came to Iowa the year before I did. They saw your father and I suppose your step-mother (your father was then living with his second wife) but I don't know whether they saw your children or not. Uncle Jesse Baker died November 1st., 1846, before I came here. Aunt Sally died some two weeks before. I cannot tell the date of her death. I know where their graves are. It is some twelve miles from where I live; it is probably six or seven miles from what is now called the West Nishnebottona. What we at first called West Nishnebottona is now called Silver Creek, and what we called the Middle Fork of the Nishnebottona is now called the West Nishnebottona. Their graves are on the East side of the Silver Creek, nearly a mile from the Creek on the High land at the edge of the timber and prairie as it was at first. Where you probably crossed Silver Creek is some ten miles farther North. I knew Uncle Jesse and Aunt Salley a good many years before, when I was a little boy; never saw them after the fall of 1835, when my folks moved from Mass. to Ohio. They lived at that time in Munson, Geauga Co., Ohio. As we came we stopped at your Grandfather's and saw them, except your father. They lived in West Winfield in Herkimer Co., New York. I never saw any of them at any other time. We also stopped at Uncle Simon Baker's. He lived some four miles East of Skaneateles in Onondaga Co. I never saw any of them at any other time. I was then not quite twelve years old. Uncle Jirah Baker lived somewhere farther North and West than Uncle Simon, but I can't tell where; it was out of our way to come past there, so I never saw any of them. We came by land through Auburn, Canandaigua and Geneseo. Uncle Jirah had a wife and children, but I don't know whether sons or daughters, or how many. They would likely average for age less than your Grandfather's children, as he was eight years younger than your Grandfather and next older than Uncle Simon. I know what his wife's name was, but cannot recall it at this time. He was a Surveyor and his business was good at the settlement of the country. I have heard that he did well at it, doing good work and getting good pay. I think some of Uncle Simon's children might be likely to know something of them, but I don't know where you could find any of them. I knew Cary Burdick well, who married Uncle Jesse Baker's only daughter. He lived about two or three miles South of where Uncle and Aunt were buried on Silver Creek and died there in 1852 or 1853. Aunt Burdick, as we called her, died in Ottertail Co., Minn., in the winter of 1871-2; can't tell the date. They had four children, Oscar who was born 1823 or 1824 and was killed in the Army near Petersburg, Va., in 1864. Married; don't know if he had any children. I never saw him, but was personally acquainted with the rest. Jackson was next in age. He married Jerusha Anderson, daughter of Buckley Anderson, lives in Becker Co., Minn., near Detroit, on the North Pacific R.R. Jeanette married Louis Whiting and lives at Clitherall, Ottertail Co., Minn. Jesse, the youngest, is married and lives at the same place. They all have children grown up and married. I don't know to whom, or how many of them. If you would like to correspond with them, write to Jesse Burdick, Clitherall, Ottertail Co. Minn., and he will give you any information he can. Uncle Jesse Baker had a step-son whose name was Henry, who always went by the name of Henry Baker. His first wife was Margaret Bouvee. She was the mother of the step-son and of Polly, as she was called (the real name was Mary). She died many years ago and he married Sally Hawks before I was born. The step-son always lived in York State as far as I know, near Sand Bank, Oswego Co. Long after I came here, the Burdick children used to correspond with their Uncle, Henry Baker's, children, and perhaps may know yet where they are. The Burdick's (at Sand Bank) were not so far from Uncle Jirah but what they knew somewhat about him. Perhaps you can learn from the Burdicks or the Henry Baker children something about Uncle Jirah.

I will tell you about my Grandfather. His name, as you already know, was Benjamin Baker. I have the impression that I have been told that his father's name was Benjamin also, but am not quite certain. I never heard his mother's name or family. Grandfather was born June 27th., 1750 in South Kingston, Rhode Island. He married first Lois Babcock, daughter of Oliver and Patience Babcock. They had one child. Don't know whether girl or boy, or its name. Lois died and the child lived at its Grandfather Babcock's, but died when a few years old, three or four perhaps. Lois was born in 1754. He then married Hannah Tucker, who was born in 1754. She was the mother of the mother of the family. I don't know the name of her father or mother, whether she had brothers and sisters, except she had a brother named Newman Tucker, who was a beautiful penman. He wrote the names and dates of births of Grandfather Baker's children in my father's family Register, and I wish I could copy them as well for you.

Jesse Baker,	was born January 23rd, 1778
Benjamin Baker	was born October 26th 1780
Newman Baker	was born January 26th 1783
Lucy Baker	was born October 12th 1785
Jirah Baker	was born April 18th 1789
Simon Baker	was born October 11th 1790
Hannah Baker	was born February 19 1793
Mary Baker	was born August 7th 1795

This is the way it reads in the record, but Lucy, who was a twin, had a mate named Lois, who died at the age of a few months. These are all of Grandfather Baker's children, ten in all, eight of whom lived to grow up. Grandfather was a shoemaker, used to work for the neighbors, had a farm and they frequently worked for him on the farm for shoemaking and mending; an upright man, whom everybody believed in implicitly, apt to be chosen when any matter was arbitrated; very unassuming and retiring; averse to attracting attention. One of his sister-in-law said of him that she always pitied Deacon Baker when he came in to meeting with new clothes on. He was a man of a hundred times the sense of some who make a great noise, have a deal to say, and pass for great man. He was a member of the Baptist Church and Deacon and was always called Deacon Baker. His wife died about 1805 and he then married Mary Babcock, a sister of his first wife. She was born in 1758. I have no record of either of the marriages. He was in the service a short time, probably the Militia were called out but I don't know whether in Rhode Island or Mass. He moved to Leyden in the time of the war. This is the Revolutionary War I am speaking of. The country when he came to Leyden was wholly unimproved, all wood. His second wife's children were all born in Leyden. I think his sons, as fast as they grew up, went West into York State. None of them married there, but your Grandfather. Lucy Baker was never married. I can't tell what year she died, but it was after my mother, Mary, was a young woman, but before she was married, Newman went to York State, married, and had three or four children. He was supposed to have been killed by the Indians. I don't know about what year nor what part of the State he lived in. He went to the wood to work chopping, and that was the last ever known of him. Bones of a man were found long after which were supposed to be his, but it was never known what became of him for certain. You speak of Simon G., and though the record simply says Simon, I think I have heard my mother say his name was Simon Clark. Grandfather died September 28th., 1828, aged 78 years, 3.m. 1 day, he was latterly troubled with asthma, which run into the dropsy. I was less than five years old at the time of his death, but I remember him very distinctly and lived till I was nearly twelve in that neighborhood. I have often heard him spoken of and always with approval. My mother was named Mary, but was always called Polly. You doubtless know that your Grandmother's name was Rebecca Thorn. I don't know who Uncle Newman married. Uncle Simon married Roxana Patterson. I can't now think of Uncle Jira's wife's name. Aunt Hannah married Randall Miner, the father of Jerrah Miner, with whom you correspond, and my mother married William H. Shepardson. If I could see you, I could tell you more about Grandfather and give you a better idea of the kind of a man he was than I could write in a month. I know your Grandfather Thorn's folks most as well as I do the Bakers, and can tell you many things of your Grandmother's family if they would be of interest. The Thorn and Baker families were raised in less than a quarter mile of each other. As regards photographs, I sent the last one that was fit to send away of my mother's when I wrote to Jerrah Miner a week or two ago. We never had any of my father. I sent the last one of myself to Cous. Benj. Miner not long ago. My sisters have none at present of themselves.

I will have some taken sometime and will remember you when I do. Write me when you receive this, and if you wish I will tell you something of Grandfather's brothers and sisters as far as I can and also of the Thorn family and more of my father's family.

I am,
Yours most respectfully,
(Signed), William H. Shepardson

-oOo-

Glenwood, July 4th, 1886

Dear Cousin: Yours of the 25th ulto. came to hand in due time. We are all in reasonable health. It is of interest to know that my Great-Grandfather's name was Benjamin and that he was born in North Kingston, R.I. I think my Grandfather was the oldest of the family, at least of the sons. He had brothers, first Elijah, whose wife's name was Martha. His children's names were Mercy Junia, and Zerah. Mercy married James Avery, a Methodist preacher. They had lived in York State in different places and went to Ohio 1830 to 1834. The last I ever heard of them they lived in Medina, Medina Co., Ohio, in 1846 and Uncle Elijah and Aunt Martha lived with them; their children were some of them grown up before that time. Junia Baker lived in Fairfield, Huron Co., Ohio, in 1847, he had four or five children, the oldest twenty or twenty-one. Zerah lived at that time in Geauga Co. I think. He had a large family; don't know how many. Saw Junia's family the winter before I left Ohio. Never saw any of Zerah's family. Uncle Elijah settled in Leyden (his farm adjoining grandfather's) and lived there till his three children were grown up and the daughter married, when they all moved to York State, near where Uncle Simon lived. They were all of the uneasy kind, moving probably fifty or a hundred times in the course of their lives. Junia could make as good wagons as ever were upu up, and as fine carriages as anyone need want; was a good carpenter and joiner, also cabinet maker, in short could make most anything constructed of wood. Grandfather's next brother was Jirah. Don't know his wife's name. Think she had a brother of the name of Increase Mosely. Their children were Clark, Increase, Tabitha, and Mercy, and perhaps another daughter. A man named John Burns married either a sister or cousin of these. I am not certain which. I saw Increase several times when we lived in Mass. Never saw any of the others. Burns came to Mass. several times buying fat sheep for the Albany market, usually Increase came with him, but a cousin of Increase came on one occasion named Sameul Baker. Jirah and his three brothers younger than he settled in Hoosic for the reason that when they were grown, land in Leyden had raised so much in prico they were not able to buy there where Grandfather and Uncle Elijah had settled. Hoosic is in the edge of New York, is west of Bennington in Vermont and is about seventy miles from Leyden. They all bought unimproved land where they settled. Grandfather's brother next in order was John. He lived in Hoosic and raised a family. Don't know who his wife was, nor her name. The next in order was Noah. He also settled in Hoosic and raised a family, but I know as little of him as of John. The youngest brother of them was Sherman. I remember seeing him and his wife when they, with Uncle Jesse and Aunt Sally, came to see Grandfather in his last sickness. I was then four years old. He was a large man, rather fleshy, and as strong perhaps as your Grandfather. He could catch a horse by the hind leg and wrapping his big long fingers around it could brace himself and hold it as you would a hog. Not a very large team horse, but a good smart young riding horso, and the man on the horse could not make it break away from him by applying the spurs. I have heard Uncle Jesse tell of this. There were besides the six sons three daughters, but I don't know in what order they came or how they were mixed in with the sons. One of them, I don't know her name, married a man named Harrington and I think always lived in Rhode Island and raised a family. One of her sons, Cyrus Harrington, came to Leyden a young man and married there Sally Avery and moved to Smyrna, Chenango Co., N.Y., where they raised a family. I afterwards knew their oldest son, Sydney H., quite well, and one of the daughters married my cousin, Thos., J. Shepardson; her name was Desire. Another of Grandfather's sisters, named Lydia, married a man named Scribner and, I think, lived in Hoosic and raised a family, but I know nothing further of them. Still another sister of Grandfather's, named Polly, married a Clark, I think, but am not quite sure of the name. Your fathor must have known them well as they lived near your Grandfather. She was a widow since her children (which were all girls) were quite

small. There were three or four children. These are all of Grandfather's brothers and sisters as far as I know. Grandfather's mother lived the latter part of her life in Hoosic with some of her children, and Grandfather used always to go to Hoosic at least once a year as long as his mother lived to see her. My father and Mother went once to Hoosic when I was six or seven years old, to visit the relatives there. Were gone a couple of weeks, and Grandmother Baker, after Grandfather's death, went over there and stayed perhaps half a year. Jirah and his wife came and brought her home, so I saw them, and those I mention above as having seen are all I ever saw.

The Green Mountains are between Leyden and Hoosic, which have to be surmounted. Grandfather has ridden the seventy miles in a day on horseback, but it took a pretty good horse; going with a team they always took two days for it. Grandfather and all his brothers and sisters were born and raised in R.I., in South Kingston probably. I have always had the impression that my Great-Grandfather died when the younger children were quite small. I have no knowledge of any of the Hoosic folks after 1835, when my folks moved to Ohio. Uncle Jesse Baker went somewhere to Western New York, where he married his first wife and where his daughter Polly was born and always lived, till they went to Illinois. Afterward, he married again and then lived in Hoosic till he came to Ohio in the spring of 1835. I did not know of Uncle Newman's having lived in Hoosic, though most likely he did.

I wrote you before that I knew the Thorns almost as well as the Bakers, but what I meant was my own personal knowledge of individuals, for I don't know so much about the family, though my knowledge of the Bakers is anything but complete. I well remember your Great-Grandfather and Great-Grandmother Uncle Henry and Aunt Prudy (her name was as I suppose Prudence Noyes) as everybody used to call them. I think he came to Leyden several years after Grandfather did, I well remember his telling of being in the Battle of Monmouth, N.J. and there during the battle he saw Washington for the first and only time. Washington was very angry at General Chas. Lee, who had misbehaved and disobeyed orders. "He came on the field" as your Grandfather would tell it "with his life guard around him, he was swearing mad, took Lee's command from him and ordered him under arrest right there." To him General Washington was the greatest and the best man that the sun ever rolled over. He could not mention his name without manifesting the greatest enthusiasm. I have the impression that he served through the whole war and if so he could not have come to Leyden till 1782 or 3, whereas my Grandfather came there in 1776 or 7, as I suppose. I don't know about any of Uncle Henry's ancestors or his brothers and sisters. He may have been of German descent. I never heard, though the name in German would not have been Thorn, but Dern, I think. Their children were Samuel, Henry, Crandall, Rebecca, Prudence, Edith. I can't tell the order of them. Samuel married Rectina Boyden, their children Mary (called Polly) and Samuel, and I think one or two younger, but I can't recollect. Samuel was near my age and died when five years old. Mary was older. They moved West when I was six or seven years of age and I heard no more of them for some ten years, when Sydney Harrington (mentioned above) came across the family as he was traveling through Southern Ohio, but I can't tell near what place. Polly was teaching school. He only saw them for a short time. Samuel was away from home himself, so he did not see him at all. This is the last I ever heard of them. Henry married Prudence Minor of Halifax, daughter of Percy Miner. Their children were Minor, Isaac, Roswell, and Eunice. Henry Miner (was the full name) was about three years older than I. A good, kind, helpful boy, but in anger more obstinate than any mule. (His grandfather was this way). He has helped me through the deep snow on our way to school many is the time, as good to me as to his own brothers. Jerrah Miner wrote me that Miner died two or three years ago. Isaac Noyes, the second boy, was not quite a year older than I; a good, steady boy, more like his mother's folks than Minor, who everyone remarked was his grandfather right over again. Isaac lives now in Brattleborough, Windham Co., Vermont. If you should write to him you would be able to learn of the ages of your progenitors, etc., and if the boy is father to the man you will find him most kind and obliging. Roswell, who was a year younger than I, was kicked by a horse a year or two after we moved from there, and his skull fractured so he only lived a half day. Eunice was some five years younger than I and I have not heard other for more than thirty years, and till within a couple of years I heard nothing from anyone there, and no one has as yet written anything about her. Crandall Thorn married Mary Rounds after I can remember, probably about 1831. They had two children Avery and Mary, before my folks moved away. My cousin Warron Bell married Mary and they lived in a mile of where she was born and raised. Crandall has been dead some years and his widow lives with some of her children in the North part of Vermont. They had more chil-

dren than those two, but I don't know how many. Mary Rounds folks lived in Northern Vermont and she is probably where she was born and raised. I forgot to note in the proper connection that Henry Thorn died in Brattleborough some more than a year ago, and was brought to Leyden for interment. He lived with his son, Isaac; died at the age of 88. Your Grandfather had also another son named Avery, who died when eight or nine years of age. Edith married Elias Niles and lived in Halifax, Vt. They raised children, quite a number, but I can't tell their names nor how many. Have seen her many times. Always visited mother when they came to Leyden. Prudence married Abram Harvey and lived somewhere in York State, thirty or forty miles from your Grandfather's, or perhaps more. I never saw them and don't know about their children.

I hope this will find you well. I shall be glad of the photos and to learn the names etc., of your children. Will send photo sometime.

Respectfully, Your Cousin,
(Signed) William H. Shepardson

P.S. I forgot to say in the proper place that your Grandfather Thorn was in his younger days entirely without opportunities of learning to read and write, and you will be glad to know that no man could try harder and take more pains to have his children have a chance for schooling. When the older ones were too small to help each other, he went with them himself when the going was bad and helped them and carried them over the worst spots, and no one was more pleased than he was all his life to see children learn well at school. Also he and Aunt Prudy moved from Mass. before our folks did, He went to where his daughter Harvey lived and was living yet when my folks came to Ohio in 1835.

One of my sisters remarks that she remembers hearing mother say of your father that she saw no look or ways of the Bakers about him scarcely at all, but that he was clear Thorn.

W.

1. Henry Sherman, CG. Father
2. Henry Sherman G. Father
3. Samuel Sherman, Father
4. Philip Sherman, B. 1610, Feb. 5,
Married --- D. 1687, ---
Sarah Odding, B. ---- ---
Daughter, D. 1681, ---
of ---- & Margaret (---) Odding, Dedham,
Essex Co., Eng., Portsmouth, R.I. His
wife was a daughter of John Porter's
wife by her former husband.

1633. He came to Massachusetts, this
year and soon settled in Roxbury.

1634, May 14. Freeman.

1637, Nov. 20, he and others were warned
to deliver up all guns, pistols, swords,
powder, shot, &c., because "the opinions
and revelations of Mr. Wheelwright and
Mrs. Hutchinson have seduced and led in-
to dangerous errors many of the people
here in New England".

1638, March 7. Portsmouth. He and
eighteen others signed the following
compact. "We whose names are under-
written do here solemnly in the pre-
sence of Jehovah, incorporate ourselves
into a Bodie Politic, and as he shall
help will submit our persons, lives, and
estates unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the
King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and
to all those perfect and most absolute
laws of his given us in his holy word
of truth, to be guided and judged thereby.

1638, March 12. He and others having
had license to depart, from Massachusetts,
summons was ordered to go out for them
to appear, if they be not gone before, at
the next Court to answer such things as
shall be objected.

1638, May 13, He was present at a Gen-
eral Meeting held at Portsmouth upon
public notice.

1639. Secretary

1640. He and four others were chosen to
lay out lands.

1641. March 16. Freeman.

1648-49-50-51. General Recorder.

1655. Freeman

1665-7. Deputy.

1676. April 4. It was voted that in
these troublesome times and straits in
this colony, this Assembly, desiring to
have the advice and concurrence of the
most judicious inhabitants if it may be
had for the good of the whole, do desire
at their next sitting the company and

Counsel" of sixteen persons, among them
Philip Sherman.

1681, July 30th. Will made.
Proved. 1687, March 22.

Executor son Samuel. To wife, Sarah, use
of fire room in West of Dwelling house,
a bed, and maintenance by son Samuel,
in raiment and necessaries, and to her
ten good ewe sheep, kept by executor.
To eldest son Eber 10 acres in Ports-
mouth, and what he has had and my horse-
flesh in Narragansett, except one mare,
the second best, which I give to Thomas
and Peleg Mumford, my grandchildren. To
son Peleg, 5 ewe sheep. To son Edmund,
a quarter share of meadow and a sixth
share of upland in Ponagansett, in
Dartmouth, and also a whole purchase
right in Westerly. To son Samson, at
death of wife, the West half of farm I
dwell on. To son Samuel the rest of
farm and my now dwelling house and other
buildings, and to have two parts of the
grass and hay during life of wife, and
all neat cattle, horse kind, sheep and
swine, except two oxen, and a fatting
cow, and all movable goods, except two
groat chests with lock and key each,
which are for wife Sarah. To son Samson,
a white faced mare with her foal and those
four Indians which we jointly bought. To
sons Samson and Samuel, my draught horse,
and two draught steers, equally. To
son John, my bay mare and her foal. To
son Benjamin, all the remaining part of
my land at Briggs Swamp, where said
Benjamin's house now stands, about 20
acres. To daughter Sarah, ten ewe
sheep. To daughter Hannah £5, for her-
self and children, and five ewe sheep.
To daughter Phillip 10 ewe sheep. To
son Edmund is given Benjamin Ch so's
son till of age, and he is to be found
in food and clothes till then.

The children of Philip and Sarah were:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. Eber, | Born 1634 |
| Married | Died 1706 |
| Mary -- | Born --- |
| | Died --- |

Lived in Kinstown, R.I.

1670, Oct. 26, he and four others were
appointed to make a rate for Pettaguam-
scutt.

1687. Taxed 4s., 5d.

1706, Nov. 13. Will proved. To son
Eber 100 acres, to sons Samuel, Stephen,
Elisha, William, and Peleg, land.
Inventory, Oxen, 5 cows, 2 three-years,
calf, &c.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 11. Sarah, | Born 1636, |
| Married | Died --- |
| Thomas Mumford, | Born --- |
| | Died 1692 (---) |

III. Peleg, Born 1638,
Married Died 1719,
Elizabeth Lawton, Born ---
Died 1711.

Lived in Portsmouth, R.I., Dartmouth,
Swansey, Mass., Kingstown, R.I.
1670, June 6. Dartmouth, Mass., Grand
Jury.

1701, July 11, Portsmouth. He took a
bond from his son Peleg for £1,000, the
latter paying to his mother Elizabeth,
£18 per year for life, and £100 to
brother Samuel, within a year of his
father and mother's death, to brother
Benjamin, £100, within two years, and
to brother George, £100 within three
years of parents' death.

1711, Sept. 19. Swansey. The old bond
being declared void, a new one was
given for £1000, by Pelez Sherman, Jr.,
of Portsmouth to Pelez, Sr., of Shaw-
omet the former agreeing to pay his
mother £18 yearly.

1719. Will proved. To son Thomas 20
acres. To son Pelez loom &c. To son
Samuel a bed. To son Eber 10 acres
and dwelling house West side of Taunton
River. To son Benjamin, confirmation
of lands already given. To brother
Edmund of Dartmouth, a sum of money.
To six nephews, children of brother
Eber, £5 each. Some other legacies
illegible.
Inventory, 2 gals. rum, 14 sheep, 3
lambs, bonds, pewter, Bible, &c.

IV. Mary, Born 1639,
Died young.

V. Edmund, Born 1641,
Married, Died 1719
Dorcas. Born ---
Died ---

1677. Freeman. Portsmouth, R.I.

1694, Nov. 13. Dartmouth. He was one
of those who received a confirmatory
deed of Dartmouth from William Brad-
ford.

1712, Oct. 20. Will proved 1719, July
6, Executrix Wife Dorcas. To son
Samuel 5s., he having had already. To
sons David, Nathan and Nathaniel each
certain parts of homestead. To wife,
rest of homestead lot on the farm with
all housing, orchards, &c., for life,
and at her death said housing and lands
to go to sons Elkanah and Joseph equal-
ly. To son Elnathan 12 acres. To
daughter Lydia Maxfield 7 acres. To
sons David Nathan Nathaniel, Elkanah,
and Joseph, certain land. To sons
Samuel, David, Nathan, Nathaniel, Elk-
anah, Joseph, and Elanthan, salt marsh

and meadow. To sons David, Nathan,
Nathaniel, Elkanah, Joseph, and El-
nathan, rest of estate.
Inventory. Housing and lands £490, 6
cows, 3 calves, 18 sheep, 4 two-years,
a yearling horsekind, 6 swine, 4 beds,
warming pan, pewter, &c.

VI, Samson, born 1642.
Mar. 1675, March 4. Died 1718,
June 27.
Isabel Tripp, born 1651
Died 1716 (---)
Daughter of John and Mary (Paine)
Tripp.

Residence, Portsmouth, R.I.

1688. Grand Jury.

1716, Nov. 5. Will prove 1718, July 4,

Exr. son Job. To daughter Sarah Chace
a great brass kettle and £10 to be
paid by my son Philip. To son Philip
all land in Westerly and Dartmouth.
To daughter Alice Tibbetts a great
iron pot and £10 paid by son Abiel.
To son Abiel land in Kingstown which he
is now in possession of, a gun or musket
as he chooses, silver spoon, great
Bible, whip-saw and negro boy, Tommy.
To daughter Isabel Baker great iron
kettle and £10 paid by son Job. To son
Job all my housing and land in Ports-
mouth where I dwell, a gun or musket
and pair of andirons. To granddaughter
Mary, daughter of son Philip, a feather
bed, pewter, &c., and five sheep. To
three daughters, equally divided a
riding horse, two good cows, twenty
sheep and rest of household goods. To
son Job all the rest of estate.

Inventory £216-4s-9d. viz: wearing
apparel, armour £2-10s, two gold rings
£1-8s, silver money £1-2s-6d, plate £1,
7s-4d, books £1-7s, pewter, 3 feather
beds, loom, 2 wheels, neat cattle £49,
horsekind £27, sheep and lambs £14-12s,
swine £4-5s, hay £8 warming pan &c.

VII William, Born 1643
Died young.

VIII John, Born 1644,
Married Died 1734, April 16.
Sarah Spooner, Born 1653, Oct. 5.
Died 1720 #
Daughter of William & Hannah (Pratt)
Spooner,

Residence, Portsmouth, R. I., and
Dartmouth, Mass.

1694, Nov. 13, Dartmouth. He was one
of those who received a confirmatory
deed of Dartmouth from William Bradford.

1720, June 19. Will proved 1734, May 21. Executors sons Philip and Timothy. To wife Sarah dwelling house for life and half of orchard, use of all household goods and a cow, with keep of cow by son Timothy, who is also to provide her with firewood and necessaries, said son already having a deed of homestead. To son Philip 40s. To son Isaac 40s. To son Ephraim £8. To son Timothy shop and smiths tools. To daughter Abigail Chase £3. To daughter Hannah Akin 20s. To grandson John Sherman 20s. To grandchildren Jonathan and Phebe Sherman 20s each. To four sons Philip, Isaac, Ephraim, and Timothy rest of personal equally. At the death of wife two-thirds of household goods to daughter Abigail Chase, and one-third to daughter Hannah Akin. Whereas brother Peleg Chase gave me £20, payable in two years of death, I give it to my four sons equally.

Inventory, £735-7s-6d, viz: homestead £594, heifer, mare, 2 swine, 6 cows, ox, 2 steers, bull, cash £5, wearing apparel £4-2-6d, books, &c.

IX Mary, Born 1645, May.
Married Died ---
Samuel Wilbur, Born 1663 April 1
Died 1696 ---
Son of Shadrach Wilbur.

X, Hannah. Born 1647,
Married Died ---
William Chase, Born ---
Died 1737,
son of William Chase.

XI. Samuel, Born 1648,
Died, 1717, Oct. 9.
Married 1681, Feb. 23
Martha Tripp Born 1658 #
Died 1717 #
Daughter of John & Mary (Paine) Tripp

Lived in Portsmouth, R.I.

1717, Sept. 30. Will. Proved Oct. 14, Executors sons John and Ebenezer. To wife Martha in lieu of thirds a good riding horse, cow, and ten sheep, and keep of same, privilege to keep fowls, feather bed, two chests, box, a third of rest of household goods, her choice of rooms in the house, privilege in cellar, choice of four apple trees, a good pear tree, use of garden and meat, drink, and firewood for life. To daughter Sarah Chase £10. To daughter Mary Baker £5. To daughter Mehitable Baker £5. These legacies to be paid by son Samuel. To son Samuel 18 acres in Swanzy. To daughter Martha and Rebecca Sherman two-thirds of household goods equally and to each £20. To sons John and Ebenezer, equally, all my housing and lands

in Portsmouth and right at Dartmouth containing a quarter of one share, they paying certain legacies. If either son die, the other to enjoy his part. To sons John and Ebenezer the rest of live stock, cattle, horses, sheep, swine, and husbandry gear, equally.

Inventory, £139-12s-8d. viz: wearing apparel, gloves, cane, girdle, pocket knife, razor, cash £1-4s-10d., bills of credit £12-13s-6d., plate £4-8s., books, £1-15s., 17 chairs, 2 tables, table linen, pair of stilliards, 3 feather beds, flock bed, linen wheel, pair of worsted combs.

XII. Benjamin, Born 1650
Married, 1674, Dec. 3.
Died 1719, Sept. 24.
Hannah Mowry, Born 1656, Sept. 28.
Died, 1718 ---
Daughter of Roger & Mary (--) Mowry,

Lived in Portsmouth, R.I.

1677, Freeman. 1688 Constable,

1707 Deputy, 1718, Dec. 8. Will proved

1719, Oct. 12. Executor Son Joseph. To son Benjamin all lands in Portsmouth south and westerly of a certain line. To son Joseph land north of said line with the exception of dwelling house, orchard, garden, well, and yard around house. To unmarried daughters, income and profit of dwelling house, &c, and to each the keep of a cow. To son Jonathan 5s. To daughter Amey, wife of Stephen Gardiner, a cow. To daughter Sarah, wife of Francis Brayton, 5s. To daughter Mehitable, wife of Job Carr, a pair of steers. To daughter Deborah, wife of Elisha Johnson, five sheep. If either of daughters Abigail Froelove or Bethiah die or marry, the others to enjoy the profit of house, &c., and at death or marriage of all three daughters, the house to go to grandson Benjamin, son of Isaac at age. To daughter Abigail Froelove and Bothiah Sherman, each a cow and feather bed, and to them the rest of household stuff. To son Joseph rest of stock and movables. Inventory £299-2s-, viz: wearing apparel, cane, books £2-10s., chairs, setthe, money scales, cooper's tools, cider mill, 4 feather beds, warming pan, nest-kind £72, horsekind £13, sheep and lambs £14, swine £13, pewter &c.

XIII. Philip, Born 1652, Oct. 1,
Married --- Died ---
Benjamin Chase, Born 1639, ---
Died 1731, ---
Son of William & Mary (--) Chase

The children of Eber and Mary (--) Sherman were:

1. Eber B ---
2. Samuel B ---
3. Stephen B ---
4. Elisha B ---
5. William, B ---
6. Peleg B ---
7. Abigail B ---

Of Thomas & Sarah (Sherman) Mumford

1. Thomas, Born 1656
2. Peleg Born 1659
3. Abigail Born ----
4. Sarah Born 1668

Of Peleg & Elizabeth (Lawton) Sherman:

1. Thomas, Born 1658, Aug. 8
2. William, Born 1659, Oct. 3.
3. Daniel Born 1662, June 15.
4. Mary Born 1664, Dec. 11
5. Peleg, Born 1666, Oct. 8
6. Ann, Born 1668, April 30
7. Elizabeth Born 1670, Nov. 25
8. Samuel Born 1672, July 15,
9. Eber Born 1674, Oct 20.
10. John Born 1676, Oct. 28
11. Benjamin Born 1677, July 15.
12. Sarah Born 1680, Jan. 25.
13. Isabel, Born 1683, June 3
14. George Born 1687, Dec. 18

Of Edmund and Dorcas (--) Sherman:

1. Elkanah, Born 1674, May 7
2. Nathaniel, Born 1676, May 1
3. Nathan, Born 1678, Feb. 1.
4. David Born 1680, Jan .
5. Lydia, Born 1682, Feb. 1
6. Samuel Born 1686, July 27
7. Elanathan Born 1694, Oct. 1
8. Joseph Born 1698

Of Samson and Isabel (Tripp) Sherman:

1. Philip, Born 1676, Jan 16
2. Sarah Born 1677, Sept. 24
3. Alice Born 1680, Jan. 12
4. Samson Born 1682, Jan 28
5. Abiel Born 1684, Oct. 15.
6. Isabel Born 1686 #
7. Job Born 1687, Nov. 8

Of John & Sarah (Spoonor) Sherman:

1. Philip, Born ---
2. Joshua, Born 1678, Sept.
3. Abigail Born 1680, Sept.
4. Hannah 1682, July
5. Isaac, Born 1684, Oct.
6. Ephraim Born 1689, Jan.
7. Timothy, Born 1691, July
8. John Born ----

Of Samuel & Mary (Sherman) Wilbur

1. Child, Born ----

Of William & Hannah (Shorman) Chase

1. William Born ----
2. Nathaniel Born 1680
3. Isaac Born ---
4. Eber Born ----
5. Joseph Born ----
6. Hezekiah Born ----

Of Samuel & Martha (Tripp) Sherman

1. Sarah Born 1682, Apr. 10
2. Mary Born 1683, Dec. 1
3. Mehitable Born 1685, May 8
4. Samuel Born 1687, Jan 12
5. Othniel Born 1689, Jan. 29
6. John Born 1696, March 28
7. Ebenezer Born 1701, Oct. 10
8. Martha, Born ----
9. Rebecca Born ----

Of Benjamin & Hannah (Mowry) Sherman

1. Benjamin Born 1675, Dec. 26
2. Jonathan Born 1677, Mar. 7
3. Joseph Born 1679, Feb. 11
4. Hannah Born 1680, March 20
5. Amey Born 1681, Oct. 25
6. Sarah Born 1684, ----
7. Isaac, Born 1686, April 22
8. Mehitable Born 1688, Mar. 4
9. Deborah Born 1691, Sept. 3
10. Abigail Born 1694, March 13
11. Freeclove, Born 1696, Sept. 14
12. Bethiah Born 1699, ---

Of Benj. & Phillip (Sherman) Chaso:

1. Phillip, Born 1679, July 5
2. Benjamin Born 1682, July 15
3. Walter Born 1684, Oct. 23
4. Bethiah Born 1686, Dec. 3
5. Mary Born ----
6. Sarah Born ----

Glenwood, August 22nd, 1886

Amenzo W. Baker, Mendon, Utah.

Dear Cousin:

I wrote you the 4th of July giving some account of the family of your Great-Grandfather's, Henry Thorn. I will now give you something relative to my father's family. My father was born April 17th., 1797, in the town of Loyden, Mass. He was the third son and sixth child of Joseph and Zurvier (Packer) Shepardson. Was married the 23rd of January 1823 to Mary Baker, daughter of Dea. Benj. Baker of Loyden. I could give you an account of my forefathers back to my Great-great-grandfather, both of the Shepardsons and Packers, but of course it would not be of interest to you.

My father had six children, of whom I was the oldest, being born the 2nd. day of December, 1823. I will put the date of our births in tabular form:

William Henry Shepardson	was born December 2nd, 1823
Mary Survier Shepardson	was born August 20th, 1826
Joseph Shepardson	was born July 25th, 1828
Lucinda Maria Shepardson	was born June 22nd. 1831
Salome Rebecca Shepardson	was born August 4th 1834
Lydia Elizabeth Shepardson	was born March 12th 1837,
	Died December 21st 1885

The two older children were born in the town of Colerain, Mass., the three next in order were born in Loyden, and the youngest in the town of Norwich, Huron Co., Ohio.

Mary was married in March, 1853, to Jonah M. Parsons, who was born in England, they have three living children, Alice, Elmer Yetman, and Clara; all grown, but none of them married. Two of their children died in infancy. Mr. Parsons died the 2nd of November, 1876, fell dead when at work as suddenly as if shot through the heart. They are all still living on the place where he died in Percival, Fremont Co., Iowa. Joseph was married in February, 1857, to Jane Felch, a widow with three little girls, the oldest twelve years old. The two youngest of them are now dead leaving families. The oldest is married and has four children. He had only a pair of twins of his own, one of whom died less than a yearold, the other is grown up and married to James C. Kennedy; has one son named Roy. These twins were born March 31st., 1859. Their names were Ella Sophia and Eva Maria. The former died. Joseph and his wife, their son-in-law and daughter and grandson are now living in Red Cloud, Nebraska.

Lydia E. was married June 7th, 1855 to James Lambert. They have had 10 children, 9 of them now living. The oldest Asahel Lambert was born January 19th., 1857, in February 1884 he married Missouri Hubbell. They have had one daughter, which died in June last, aged less than a year. Lester Ward Lambert was born December 12th., 1858, and was married in March 1886, to Emma Hubbel, a sister of Asahel's wife.

Mary Elizabeth Lambert was born January 13th, 1861 and was married in January 1884 to John Merritt. They have one daughter named Graco. None of the others are married.

Celia Maria Lambert	was born March 18th 1864
Calvin Lambert	was born September 14th 1866
William Henry Lambert	was born September 8 1868, died Feb. 5th 1872
Janette Lambert	was born April 9th 1870
Lewis Lambert, Walter Lambert, and Elsie Lambert,	whose exact ages I am not able to give.

Lydia E. Lambert died December 21st, 1885, aged 48 years, 9 months and 9 days, the youngest of my father's children, but the first to depart. The Lambert children were all born in Lyons Township, Mills Co., Iowa, and still live there, except Asahel, who has bought a place in the edge of Glenwood Township.

My mother, Mary (Baker) Shepardson died April 30th., 1872, aged 76 years, 8 months and 23 days. Died of Pneumonia, in Lyons Township, Mills Co., Iowa. My father died August 31st., 1846, in what is now Union Co., Iowa. His name, like mine, was William Henry Shepardson. His age at death was 49 years, 4 months, and 14 days. He had 4 brothers, 3 of whom died before him, dying younger than he did. His youngest brother is yet living; will be 86 the 28th. Dec. next. The sister next older than father (he had 4 sisters) died 3 or four years ago, aged 88, and upwards. My father had cousins, 16 of them in one family, whose ages were at the time of their deaths, considerably above 75 years on the average. The last daughter of them died 3 years ago aged 94 years 10 months and some days, and the youngest and last son died last March aged 84.

Aunt Hannah Miner (the mother of Jerrah Miner with whom you correspond) was probably the last one living of Deacon Baker's children. Since I wrote before, I saw in the paper notice of the death of Cous. Benjamin Miner, the oldest brother of Jerrah. He died the 6th of August in Leyden, Mass., aged 71 years, died of cancer in the stomach. He had always lived in that town or in Coleraine.

Neither I nor my two sisters who live with me have ever been married. I have a little farm here and they (Lucinda and Salome) keep the house. I have 80 acres here, the N.1/2 of N.W. of Sec. 12. Then I have the S.W. of the S.W. of Sec. 12 (40) the E.1/2 of the S.E. of the S.E. of Sec. 11 (20) and 7.1/2 acres off the N. end of the N.W. of the N.W. of Sec. 13, (67.1/2 acres) in another piece, and the S.E. of the S.E. of Sec. 14 (40 acres) in another piece (187.1/2 acres all together) The 80 where we live is prairie, the rest most all timber. Have a great deal more timber than there is any use in having. We use barbed wire of fences, so but little timber is required. Have a good house and barn on the place, plenty of apples, some grapes, cherries, currants any amount, &c. The farm is at the foot of the Missouri River, Bluffs, the E. end of it goes up on the hills a little, but not top of the high hills, and the N.W. corner goes to the wet ground. The mouth of the Platte River is about 4 miles farther North than we are. Plattsmouth where there is a railroad bridge across the Mo. River a little to the N. of West from us. We can see the bridge from my doorstep with a glass. It is 6 or 7 miles to the West of us. We are about 24 miles from Council Bluffs, 5 or 6 miles to Glenwood, which is exactly N. of us. Pacific Junction is N.W. 3.1/4 miles N. and 3.1/4 miles West, but there is no direct road to there, so it is farther to go there than to go to Glenwood. Pacific Junction is where the B. & M.R.R. crosses the K.C. St. J. and C.B.R.R. Directly W. of me the latter road is only 3 M. in a straight line, but 4 miles to get there. There is a siding and switches there, but it is only a flag station, and only the mail trains will stop for you. You doubtless remember how Western Iowa looked 40 years ago, great rolling prairies and not a tree for miles in many places, but it is all settled up now, and the best places are the farthest away from the timber. The R.Roads are what have made the country. It is only 12 or 13 years since the Burlington R.Road reached here, but now there are towns along it which have grown up since, and which the road has made, of 6 to 10,000 people. There is Creston, out on the divide, between the waters that go into the Missouri and those that go into the Grand River. They have 9 or 10 large 2 story school-houses, good and nice. There is so much R.R. business that it takes 4 yard engines all the time, day and night, to do the switching. The Roundhouse is the largest in the country, yet a friend of mine who runs a yard engine has told me he has seen as many as 30 engines standing out there over night, because there was not room to put them in shelter. It is not a great R.R. centre. There is a R. coming in from St. Joseph and Maryville, Mo., and a little branch from the N., the other end of which has not reached anywhere yet. As recently as 1874 there were not above 2 or 3 houses where the town now is. If you, or any of your folks, should be coming this way, I hope you will be sure and call on us. I don't know but I have said this before, but possibly I may have forgotten it. Write me please when you have time. The news in the papers you speak of would not interest me half as much as something about yourself, or any of your father's family. Anything you would be likely to write would be of interest. I have not heard from you since I wrote you last. I hope you will succeed in your undertaking and will get up a "Baker Book" about as good as you would like to have it, and when you get it out I shall want to subscribe for a copy. Shall be glad to render you any assistance in my power, but what I can do will be of but little worth, for, having lived so much of my life away from any of them, my kindred, I know much less about them than I otherwise would. Don't forget to send me the likeness you wrote of. I hope to send you some after a while. Please write the names, date of birth, marriage and to whom of all your father's family and descendants. This leaves us in health, and may it find you all well. I am most respectfully, Your Cousin,

(Signed). William H. Shepardson

P.S.- I will state, though it may not interest you, that my boyhood and youth were spent working on a farm, yet more part of the work since I arrived at manhood has been at the Carpenter and Joiner business.

I presume my oldest sister will remember more about your father's folks than any of the rest do. Most likely she will remember you personally, but I have not seen her since you first wrote me. The children were up here a while ago, but have not seen her since early spring. They live 25 miles away.

W.H.S.

Glenwood, Mills Co., Iowa
November 28th., 1886

Amenzo W. Baker, Mondon, Utah

Dear Cousin:

Your letter of October 10th. came duly to hand. Was glad to hear from you. I think Jesse Burdick will probably write to you after a while, he is not very prompt in answering letters, but gets around after a good while. We have not heard from them in a good while now, but I expect we will some time. Before I forget it, I will say, I think I forgot (when I wrote to you about the Thorns) to mention the youngest son of your father's Uncle Henry. His children were Henry H., Isaac N., Roswell, Eunice, and Rufus C., and I think it probable that Rufus had fallen out of my mind so I did not mention him with the others. He was a little boy, not big enough to go to school, when we came from Mass.

I will write you now of the Shepardsons. The one farthest back that I know anything about is Daniel Shepardson. He was my Great-great-grandfather. His wife's name Mary. Don't know when or where either of them was born, when they were married, or died, or where any part of their lives was spent. They had a son Noah born in 1752, of whom I know nothing, except that he died at age of 67. (There was a John Shepardson, of whom I know considerable, who lived in Guilford, Vt., but died in Brattleborough. He was born in 1718 and died in 1798, and I always thought that he was a son of Daniel, but am not quite certain of it, as the record does not say so.) They had a son, Zephaniah, born May 6th., 1733, who was my Great-grandfather. His wife, Ruth, daughter of Samuel and Mary Hills, was born July 1st, 1733. I know nothing further than this of her parentage. Their children were Zephaniah, Jun., born March 21st., 1755; William, born July 25th., 1756; Ruth born September 16th., 1758; Joseph born October 27th., 1760; Jared born July 8th., 1762. These were all born in Attleborough, Massachusetts. Sometime between 1762 and 1774 my Great-grandfather removed from Attleborough to Guilford, Vt. Of these, Zephaniah, Jun., was married first to Rachel, who died September 28th., 1787, aged 32 years 8 months, and afterwards to Lotice. He had in all 16 children, but I can't say how many belonged to each wife nor how many of them were boys. They all lived to be men and women, most of them to a great age, their average age at death being considerably more than 75 years. The last of the girls died near Ellisbury, N.Y., within 2 or 3 years, aged 94 y. and 10 months, and the last and youngest of them all, died in Milwaukee last March; was a year, aged 81. His name was Clark Shepardson and his Sally Barney. Two of the sons were named Zephaniah and James, but I can't recall now the names of any but these 4.

The wife of William was Grace. Their children were Thaddeus, Cynthia, Hart, and Polly, all of whom, together with their father and mother, died of consumption, and that branch is, as far as I know, extinct. Ruth was married to John Barney, who died in 1793, aged 39 years. They had a son who died at the age of 21 years. I don't know if they had other children. Jared Shepardson died of consumption at the age of 48 years, never having been married. Joseph, who was my Grandfather, married Zurvier Packer, Oct. 25th., 1787, in Guilford, Vt. Their children were Jared, born May 9th., 1788, in Guilford; Rebecca May 3rd., 1790, in Guilford; Zurvier, born March 9th., 1792, in Guilford, Vt.; Joseph Born Feb. 22nd., 1794, in Leyden; Lucinda born Dec. 12th., 1795, in Leyden, Mass. William Henry'sr born April 17th., 1797, in Leyden, Mass. James Packer, born May 7th., 1799, in Leyden. Horatio Jefferson, born December 28th., 1800, in Leyden; and Salome, born August 25th., 1803, in Leyden, Mass. Zurvier Packer Shepardson, died October 7th., 1806, aged 38 years. Joseph Shepardson, died November 2nd., 1821, aged 61 years. The former died

in Leyden, the latter in Coleraine, Mass. I forgot to say in the proper place that Zephaniah Shepardson, the father of the sixteen children, died in Guilford, Vt., in 1836 or 1837, aged 81 or 82 years. He was living when we left Mass. in October 1835, and I remember him perfectly well. Of the children of Joseph and Zurvier, Jared married Matilda Danison, August 2nd., 1812, in Zanesville, Ohio. He died October 11th., 1825, in Monroe, Ohio, leaving six children, some of whom are now living in Eastern Iowa. Rebecca was married to Calvin Weld, April 27th., 1809, in Guilford. They removed to Coventry, Chenango Co., N.Y., where they raised a family and died. I don't know of their family, nor how long they have been dead. Zurvier was married to Benjamin S. Grinnoll, April 5th., 1810, in Leyden, where they lived for 25 years. They had ten children, two of whom had died before they removed to Homer, N.Y. with the other eight, where they lived eleven years, and all moved to Harpersfield, Ohio, in 1847. The family are nearly all dead now. Joseph, when he grew up, emigrated to Ohio. He died in Dresden, Ohio, in 1840 or 1841, aged 46 or 47 years, leaving neither wife nor children. Lucinda was married in Coleraine, February 9th., 1818, to Ezra Babcock. They removed to Scott, N.Y., where they raised three children. Alfred B., Lucy A., and William H. S. She died some three years ago at the age of 88 years, he having died some time before. James Packer emigrated to Ohio when he was grown and had learned the trade of blacksmith, married there, and settled in Lower Sandusky, now Fremont, where he died October 24th., 1834, aged 35 years, 5 months, 17 days. He left one daughter, of whom I know nothing. Horation Jefferson married Mary S. Brown, February 8th., 1827, in Coleraine, Mass. They raised five children, Thomas J., Sybil A., Survier, Jerusha E., and Rachel, of whom the three latter are dead, and of the former one lives in Saratoga Springs and the other in Greenfield, Mass. Horatio died in Greenfield, Nov. 15th., 1886 (tomorrow will be two weeks), aged 85 years 10 months 17 days. His wife is still living. He was the last surviving member of his father's family. Salome was married to Walter Bell, Dec. 16th., 1822, in Coleraine. They raised six children; Joseph Shepardson, Mary Sophia, James Packer, Warren, Eliza and Harriet. Of the Bell children, Joseph S. married Sarah Packer, and lives in Coleraine on the farm adjoining his father's. They raised four children: Clarence H., who died on the 30th of October last in N.Y. City; George B., who is married and lives in Grand Island, Nebraska; Fred, who lives in Chicago, and Grace, who still lives at home. Mary S. is unmarried. James P. married Maria Stuart. They live in Coleraine. Have had children, but all have died. Warren married Mary Thorn and lives in Leyden, three-quarters of a mile from where your Great-grandfather used to live. They have two children living. Mary is daughter of Crandall Thorn, your Grandmother's youngest brother. Eliza Bell married Horace Kemp and lives in Coleraine, close to where she was born and raised; and Harriet married Joseph C. Minor, and lives in Leyden, neighbor to Warren and Mary. I think I wrote you before of my father (the William H. above) and of his family, so I omitted him from the account in his regular place.

I will now write something of the Packers. The first of whom I know anything was James and his wife, Zurvier, of whom I know as little as of the first Shepardsons. James and Zurvier had a son James, born April 26th., 1735. The wife of this son James was Rebecca Brown, daughter of Eleazer and Mary Brown. Of the Browns I know nothing further. Rebecca Brown was born June 30th., 1735. James and Zurvier had also two other sons, Eldridge and Charles. The children of James and Rebecca were James, born August 16th., 1760; Jeremy, born July 2nd., 1762, Zurvier (who was my grandmother) born September 15th., 1768; Eleazer, born June 12th., 1770. Rebecca, born March 27th., 1773; and Polly, born February 10th., 1777. About the year 1778, (the year is not known with certainty), James and Rebecca, with their family and his two brothers, Eldridge and Charles, came from Groton, Connecticut. James settled in Guilford; Eldridge in Halifax, Vt., and Charles in Leyden, Mass. In a few years Eldridge died, leaving a son, Simeon, who lived with and was raised by his Uncle Charles, who had no sons of his own. When they came from Groton, James, the oldest of the family of James and Rebecca, was about eighteen years of age and my grandmother about ten. I judge the whole family were born in Groton, but do not know, for it is possible none of them were. James married and settled in Guilford, where he raised a family and died since I can remember, on April 22nd., 1831, aged 70 years, 8 months 5 days. His wife, whose name was Mary, died January 10th., 1830, aged 65. James, father of this James, died Aug. 24th., 1803, aged 68 years 3 months 29 days, and Rebecca, his wife, died February 19th., 1814, aged 78 years 8 months. Charles Packer died in October, 1835, considerably above 80 years old, perhaps 85. I don't know all the children of James and Mary. There was Jesse, Green, Harry, Daniel, Louisa, and probably others. The Sarah Packer, mentioned above as wife of Joseph S. Bell, is a daughter of Harry Packer. Jeremy was a Baptist Minister. He had a daughter that lived to grow up, but was not married and died of consumption, as did her father and mother. Her name was Eunice. Rebecca married Edward Barney.

Their children were: Rebecca, Edward, Jefferson, Zurvier, Clark and Packer. Elcazer had one son, Eli W. Packer, who has now been dead some years. I don't know if he had any children. Polly Packer was married to Alphous Clark. They lived in Leydon, where she died in 1826, aged 49 years, and he four months after, aged 51 years. They left one son named Elem.

This is rather a mixed up mess, but I hope you will be able to unravel all that will be useful to you. Write me at your convenience. This leaves us in reasonable health. Write me of your country. Are you a farmer? What do you raise, cattle or grain? With respect,

Your cousin,

(Signed) William H. Shepardson

THE GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY OF RHODE ISLAND.

A book of near 450 pages, size 11 x 13 in., by John O. Austin of Providence, designs to give the genealogy for three generations of every family that settled in R.I. before 1690. Of many families the genealogy is for four generations. The four generation genealogy takes up near half the book, but not near half the settlers. The information is obtained from the Record of the Colony, the Counties, the Towns, and a great deal from Church Records of all the different churches, and, as far as it goes, is in the main reliable. Abstracts of wills, deeds, and other papers, are in most cases given, so that one may learn a great deal incidentally from them. 1653, December 17th, the land of Thomas Baker is mentioned as adjoining that of George Kenrick of Newport in deed of the latter to William Field of Providence and the Church records of the First Baptist Church of Newport, of which he was a member, show that he was ordained in 1655. In 1656, when he and William Vaughan and others left the First Baptist Church of Newport and established the Second Baptist Church he rather than Vaughan was made Pastor, though the latter was ordained seven years before him and was much more than an ordinary man; so we may conclude he was a man of ability and maturity, which he would not have been if he were but 15 to 18 years of age, born in 1638, as your account has it. Regarding Kings Town. It was the County seat of Kings County. The name of the county was changed probably in the Revolutionary period to Washington County. In 1722 Kings Town was divided into North and South Kingstown, the former being considered the original township and having the custody of the old records. Afterwards, a township called Exeter was set off, but whether wholly from N. Kings Town I am unable to say. Mr. Austin speaks of people as of North Kingstown or of South Kingstown, according as they lived in what was afterwards, when the town was divided, in one or the other place, and uses the terms N. Kingstown and S. Kingstown hundreds of times probably in his books, but never an East Kingstown nor a West Kingstown. The Genealogy and account he gives of those who lived in Kings Town are in most all cases very imperfect, for the reason that the old records have been damaged by fire, not consumed, but so injured that it is doubly difficult to decipher them. This Mr. Austin wrote me himself. For instance, the birth date of only one of the children of the second Thomas Baker can be made out, his second son John being born 1699, Sep. 20. The oldest son Thomas, being born 169-, Jan. 7, and the younger ones in 1700 and something, but it cannot be made out what, though the day of the month and the month can be told of the eight oldest. (He had thirteen children in all), but of the last five nothing can be told. Of the first, Benjamin, it can be made out that he was married in 1705 to Mary H.--- and that he had children, Benjamin and Mercy, but their birth dates cannot be told. Of our ancestor Eber Sherman, who married and settled in Kingstown, the date of his marriage, nor his wife's maiden name, nor the birth date of any of his children can be made out. From the abstract of his will, I learn that he gave his oldest son, Eber, 100 acres, and all of his sons land, but none can tell how much. He had six sons and one daughter. There is an abstract of the will of the second Thomas Baker. Three of his children, Joshua, Joseph, and Ruth, are not mentioned in the will and probably died before their father. To his third son, Jeremiah, he gives the homestead, to his two elder daughters the household goods between them, to the other seven, money, more or less. Sarah was married to a man whose name cannot be made out. Elizabeth to a man named Greene, and Ann to Stephen Sweet. She had been married before to Daniel Austin.

Portsmouth is the oldest town in R.I., except Providence. There were, as early as March 7, 1638, as many as nineteen men there who signed a compact for a form of government. It was a place of more importance for some years. The place is mentioned a great number of times in the dictionary, but never a North nor a South Portsmouth, nor an East or a West Portsmouth; simply Portsmouth. There was an Indian trader who lived at Kingstown among the Narragansett Indians as long ago as 1638, but no settlement was made there for a dozen or fifteen years at least, the Baptist Church that our ancestor gathered being the first of the kind in that place; this was about 1666. The record of your first Grandfather is as I have it, of the second, except it was South Kingston (not West) where he was born. Then as we go back farther we get clear apart. I have no doubt the tradition of the silver button and buckles is entirely correct, for in the abstracts of wills in the Dictionary, just those things are frequently left as legacies to certain designated persons. I am of the opinion that someone at some time who had seen a genealogy of our ancestors made out yours from memory, getting the Bakers and Shermans somewhat mixed, and years of important events mixed with birth years. I am firmly of the opinion there were but four of the Benjamins. Have you any genealogy of the Tuckers? They were near R.I. at an early day, but not in the colony, just outside. All well.

Glenwood, March 1st., 1887

Mr. Amenzo W. Baker, Mendon, Utah.

Dear Cousin:

I received your good long letter of the 18th. ult. in due time. Was glad to learn of all the things you wrote about, and hope you will find time to write as much more. I had not supposed that you ever raised any corn in your country more than for roasting ears. Corn is our best hold in this country. A great deal is fed to cattle and hogs and immense amounts are shipped to Chicago and some to St. Louis and to other places. I think hardly as much wheat is raised here as would make the flour we use. What is grown is mostly spring wheat, winter wheat being seldom sown, it is so likely to winter-kill. I am glad to know that your father had the good fortune to accumulate so large an estate. I have the impression from what I have heard mother say that your grandmother was afraid, when we came past there to Ohio, that your father would not amount to much financially, thinking he was unsteady minded. I don't see why our folks did not enquire your father out and call on him as they came through Fredonia and stayed all night there. Possibly they did not know that your father was living near there. I used to know several people that went to Salt Lake in 1848, and some later. There was a family of the name of Rix. Some of the children were grown when I knew them, (they were friends of Uncle Jesse Baker) and a man they called Uncle Ben, Cross and his wife, also a man named Norton Jacobs and his family. He went himself with the Pioneers in 1847 and came back in the fall and took his family the next year. A man named William Steele went several years after and one named Wood Birdno, whose wife was Steele's daughter. I saw the name of Samuel Steele in one of the papers you sent me. I was wondering if it could be the little boy I used to know. About 1851 or 1852 an old man, his wife, and daughter went to Utah. They lived neighbors to us a couple or three years. Their name was Finley. They were Scotch people. People of the name of Kidd and Harvey went when the Finleys did, but I never knew them as well. I also knew a man named Walter Cox who went to Utah 1852 or 1853. The only objection to him was he had three wives. Our folks knew his original wife quite well, and thought her a very fine woman. If you ever knew any of these people you can write me about them; would be glad to hear of the welfare of any of them. I presume the reason Jesse Burdick did not write to you promptly was merely because he is so dilatory. He would think he would write after a while and keep putting it off and putting it off, still intending to write sometime, but Jackson would be less likely to write than Jesse. You will not find him a very good correspondent, for there is generally very little in his letters. He writes to me once in a great while. I have had no letter from him since you began to write to me. If you have not heard from him yet when you write me again I will stir him up to answer you. It is not likely any letter has been lost between you. My brother would be glad to have a letter from you, but you will, I fear, find him a good deal like Jesse. His address is Red Cloud, Neb. His name is Joseph Shepardson. He was talking of coming down to see us again this spring. I will send you herewith the very poorest of a poor lot of photos of my mother. The rest were all given away before. They were copied from a not very good Ambrotype. We never had a good likeness of her. Her camera makes the upper part of her face look too oval. Her forehead was really a good deal squarer. She had black eyes and dark hair formerly. This picture is nearly as good as the others, except that the white part looks so yellow. How long did your father live near Salt Lake City till he went up to Cache Valley? Did your stepmother outlive your father, or is she still living? We will be extremely obliged if you will send us likenesses of Uncle Simon and Aunt Roxana. We mean to have some photos taken sometime and when we do will send you some. The artist here can take too photos, but he don't always do as well as he can. We never had any likenesses of any of our uncles or aunts, or of our father. Perhaps my brother can send you photos of himself and wife. Do your brothers and sisters live near you, or are they scattered? Are you the oldest of your father's children?

Respectfully yours,
W. H. Shepardson.

I send you more photos. They were taken a good while ago, but are the best I have. If you don't understand who they all are, I will explain when I write again, not having time now.

W.

At Home, October 30th., 1887.

Dear Cousin Amenzo:

It is a long time since I wrote to you. I thought that I would get photo of myself long ago, but have only just got around to it. You will think it not very handsome, but what can you expect of a man going on a hundred who has often in his lifetime been mistaken for a Dutchman. Besides, if it were handsomer, it might look less like me. I send with my own, a likeness of James Lambert, my brother-in-law, and Lydia E., my youngest sister, who died nearly two years ago, and one of Elmer Y. Parsons, my oldest sister's son. These were among those sent you before, which were older. Hope you will send me yours and those of any of yours or your father's families when you can. I will send you more sometime if I can. We are all well and have been the past year. We have had a very dry season. Crops rather short in places. Corn forty or fifty bushels an acre. Potatoes mostly an entire failure. Wheat and oats fairly good generally. I receive a bundle of papers from you every week nearly. Could send you the Des Moines Leader every week if you would care to have it. It is the leading Democratic paper in the State. Since I wrote you last I had a letter from Cousin Jerrah Miner. He wrote that Isaac N. Thorn, a cousin of your father's, who lives in Brattleborough, Vt., was entirely helpless, but wrote nothing farther about him. I think I wrote you wrong about Crandall Thorn's children. They were Avery, Joseph, Mary, and others that I did not know; and I have the impression that I forgot to mention Harry Thorn's youngest boy Rufus Chase, younger than Eunice. Mary married my cousin Warren Bell. They live close to the old school house where I first went to school. He pays a tax of 38 dollars, so you see they are in comfortable circumstances. The photos I send in a package by themselves, they being too large for this envelope. I did not write the name on them, thinking they might, in rubbing together, mark or deface each other. I was exceedingly glad of the likenesses of Uncle Simon and Aunt Roxana, which came all right a good while ago.

Write me when you have time please. I remain,

Yours with respect,

Wm. H. Shepardson

-oOo-

Glenwood, Iowa, December 2nd, 1887

Dear Cousin Amenzo:

Your kind letter of November 10th. came duly to hand, as also the photos in perfectly good shape. I was extremely gratified to receive them. I judge you resemble the Thorns much more than the Bakers, and your G.G. Father much more than your G.G. Mother, who was a rather tall, slender woman. I think as I remember hearing my mother remark of your father that you are clear Thorn. I should think from the pictures that Jarvis had a little look of my grandfather, but I don't see it in any of the others. G.F. had a good thick head of hair whereon was no sign of baldness when he died at the age of 78. Your children, every one, look like good children, so I may congratulate you. Your Aunt I remember seeing as we were moving to Ohio at your G.father's, though I have only the faintest remembrance of how she looked. Afterwards she went to Mass. and married there. I know her husband, Eli W. Miner, very well, we always went to the same school. He was a cousin of our Miner Cousins. He was some eight years older than I was. I have three other cousins that married Miners. Two nephews of Eli and one who was no relation as far as I know, so you see my Miner relatives are very numerous. I hope I may some day go to Thayer, and if I should, would be sure to call on the Browns. One does not always get a correct idea of a person's looks from a picture, and I dare say you got a wrong impression of me from my photo. I require a 7.1/4 hat, but my head is so long from front to back and so thin from side to side that I never can find a stiff hat that fits me. I am 5 ft. 8.1/4 in. tall and weigh from 180 to 199, never quite 200. Weighed some less when younger, but never less than 170 (unless I had been sick) since I was 20 years old, but I always weighed more than anyone would guess my weight at. Very dry here, yet rained slowly all day yesterday, but perfectly dry yet below 4 or 5 inches. Had some cold weather. Last Sunday morning

the Therm. stood 14 degrees, Monday just at 0. Don't forget the copy of the letter when you write me please. This is my birthday. I am 64 years old, with still a reasonable degree of health and strength. This leaves us all well. I must make this a short letter. With best respects of us all for you all, I remain

Respectfully yours,

Wm. H. Shepardson.

-oOo-

COPIED FROM GAZETTE & COURIER, GREENFIELD, MASS.

"The news of the death of Henry M. Thorn, who died at Waverly, N.Y., on the 6th inst. was a great shock to his friends in this vicinity. He recently spent several weeks visiting in Brattleboro and Leyden, the home of his youth, mostly with his father, now 87 years of age, who lives with his son, I.N. Thorn of Brattleboro. He was called home February 5th. by the severe sickness of his only son. Soon his wife and all his family were prostrated with the fever and he, after weeks watching and care for his family, took the fever and died in a few days. He was born in Leyden February 1st., 1821, where he lived until 1847, when he went to Berkshire, Tioga Co., N.Y., and married and lived there until 1881, when he moved to Waverly, where he died March 6th., 1884".

-oOo-

COPIED FROM HEADSTONES IN WEST LEYDEN CEMETERY.

- 1st. Henry Thorn died October 7th., 1850, A.E. 91".
- 2nd. Prudence, wife of Henry Thorn, died 15 Sept., 1840, aged 77. She died full in the faith."
- 3rd. Henry Thorn, Jr., born July 26th., 1796, died March 4th., 1885."
- 4th. Prudence, wife of Henry Thorn, Jr., died Sept. 16, 1851, A.E. 56."
- 5th. Crandall Thorn, died Oct. 22, 1878, A.E. 75 y. 2 m. Safely across the river All life's toils and trials o'er Sickness, sorrow, pain and anguish Cannot reach that peaceful shore."
- 6th. Avery Noyes, son of Crandall and Mary Thorn, died June 22, 1852, A.E. 20 y."
- 7th. Roswell M., son of H. and P. Thorn, died Sept. 13, 1837, A.E. 13."
- 8th. Angeline Augusta, wife of Isaac N. Thorn, born May 6th., 1832, died at Brattleboro, Vt., May 27th., 1856."

-oOo-

Glenwood May 5, 1888.

Dear Cousin Amenzo: I send you a photo of Alice Parsons the oldest daughter of my oldest sister.

This week's paper brings news of the death of one of our old Mass. friends E. G. Minor aged 76 y. 14 d. He was a brother (next older) of Eli W. Minor, who married your aunt. E.G. Minor was married the spring of 1835. Our folks moved to the State of Ohio the next fall. I remember very well his being married and fifty years after I read in the paper the account of his golden wedding. He bought a farm near his father's, moved onto it the spring of 1836 and lived there till the time of his death.

Yours sincerely

W. H. Shepardson

Glenwood, Iowa, Oct. 28, 1888

Dear Cousin Amenzo: - I went to Massachusetts the latter part of August and stayed till the first of Oct.

I saw Isaac N. Thorn of Brattleboro, Vt., your father's cousin, but only for an hour or two. He is better than I had hoped to find him, can get from his bed into his wheel chair and wheel himself all about the house into the dining room, where he can sit at the table and eat with the family, a great treat after having been confined to his bed for a long time; not more than a week before I saw him he began to ride out. They would take his chair right up and set it in the carriage with him in it. He had rode about town several times before, and the day I saw him he had been to Hinsdale in N. H., six or seven miles away, where he has a son in business. His other sons are in business in Brattleboro. He was formerly in the drug business and all his sons follow the same. Though so helpless he is well fixed, has a fine house, a good home and a most excellent wife, full of affection and devotion for him, who cares for him with great assiduity. A spinal affection is what ails him. He suffers much pain a great deal of the time and has no use of his lower limbs at all. His brother Henry M. died about 4 years ago. I will send a copy of a newspaper slip on another piece of paper. I had always supposed your Great grand-father and G.G.M. died in York State, till I saw their head stones in West Leyden cemetery. We moved to Ohio in 1835 and soon after they moved back to Leyden where she died in 1840, he living till 1850. Their son Crandall, your Grand-mother's brother, died 10 years ago. His widow is still living in Northern Vermont. My cousin Warren Bell married Mary, oldest daughter of Crandall Thorn, and lives a mile from where she was born and raised and she is the only one of the Thorn family living near there now, Brattleboro being above 12 miles away. The old Thorn homestead still belongs to the heirs of Crandall. Warren and Mary have one son, William, now 13 y. of age, he is all the child they ever had. Mary looks a good deal like her father and has ways like her Grand-mother, a real good woman. I send you inscriptions from the West Leyden burying ground, the Bakers and Miners on this sheet and the Thorns on a separate piece of paper. I thought they might be of interest to you. You will observe that Isaac N. Thorn is living with his second wife. I found Grandfather Baker's headstone broken down and broken into 4 or 5 pieces. I had a new one with the same inscription placed there. Saw our cousins Austin and Jorrah Miner. They are all there is left of 13 except the youngest sister, who is in the Asylum.

Copied from headstones in West Leyden Cemetery.

1. "Deacon Benjamin Baker, Died
Sept. 28, 1828, A.E. 78.

"The sweet remembrance of the just,
Shall flourish when their forms are dust".
2. "Mrs. Hannah, wife of Deacon Benjamin Baker."
Died Nov. 2, 1805, A.E. 51.

"The lovliest virtues of the mind
And body were in her combined.
No pencil can her virtues paint;
She lived a Christian, died a saint".
3. "Mary relict of Dea. Benj. Baker Died
2nd Nov., 1843, A.E. 83".
4. "Randall Miner died April 27, 1861, A.E. 73."
"Hannah, wife of Randall Miner Died Nov. 3, 1874, A.E. 83."
5. "Ellen C. Daw of R. and H. Miner Died May 29, 1858, A.E. 20."
"Father has gone home."

The people where I went knew your aunt whose likeness you sent me quite well, she lived there after marriage, but I don't know whether she or her husband died there or whether they moved away. There were so many things to ask about, I forgot to enquire. They all spoke of her as a very efficient woman and one of great good sense, but thought her husband was not very much account.

Please write me, I can read your letters with perfect ease. This leaves us all well. I went on the R.R. right through Hoosic but had not time to stop and find out anything about the Baker Kindred. So goodbye.

I am very truly yours,

W. H. Shepardson

-oOo-

Glenwood, Iowa, Jan. 2nd. 1888

Dear Cousin Amanzo:- I copied from the Book all there is about the Shermans except one can learn from other genealogy's who many of the third generation married. I hope you will be able to understand what I have written. I was surprised to find that Phillip was not an unusual name for a girl in the olden time. It was like the boy's name except the girls name was spelt with two ls. We are descended from Eber Shorman the oldest son of Philip and from Elisha the 4th son of Eber, though as Stephen, William and Polog also had daughters named Mary it barely is possible our fore-mother may have been a daughter of one of them. The marks--before and after, about that time, you will understand. You will see that many of the dates of births, deaths and marriages are not known. You will see that the maiden name of our fore-mother, the wife of Eber is unknown. Probably three-fourths of Philip's grand children were born before his death, 1687. The account of Philip with the names of his Father, G. father and G.G. father is in the narrow column on the left of the other and on the first sheet. The account of the 2 generation is in the wife column on both sheets. The names and date of birth as far as known of the third generation is in the narrow column on the right of the other on the 2 sheet. I am much obliged for the copy of the letter you sent. Though I cannot remember that I ever heard the name of Potter Baker, the old gentleman is doubtless correct with the exception of Potter Baker having settled in Leyden. I feel very sure if he had ever lived in Lyden, I should have heard of it. He probably came past Leyden when he moved and he and Elijah went on together into York State, though it seems strange that I never heard of them. In copying the letter you left out a word or possibly he left it out himself. Instead of saying "the other four brothers of my Grand-father settled in Hoosic" he would have said "the other four brothers of my Grand-father's children settled in Hoosic" as the three that he mentions first and the other four and the 3 sisters are all brothers and sisters. I did not know before the name of the sister who married Hurrington and there were possibly more than ten children in all. I always had the impression that Grand-father was the oldest of the family but his parents were married 1742 Sept. and G.F. was born 1750, June the 27th. It is not likely that I should be able to learn more by corresponding with those you mention, than you have already learned. If you would take time and go to see them I think that would be best as you could learn more in an hour than you would in a year by corresponding. As Philip Sherman came from Dedham Essex to England it is probable the others lived there though of this we know nothing with certainty. I have had 2 letters this fall, long ones, one of them six sheets from your cousin and my old friend Issac N. Thorn of Brattleboro, Vt. His health is much as it was when I was there last year of which I think, I wrote you after I came home. Mr. Thos. Baker wrote that Molly Baker married a man named Babcock and he is most likely right, though I had it in my mind his name was Clark. Perhaps his name was Clark Babcock. She was a widow for many years, had two or three daughters, were tolerably well off and lived near your Grand-father in West Winfield. Your father must have known them when he was a boy.

Yours truly,

W. H. Sheperdson

-oOo-

Glenwood, April 6, 1890

Dear Cousin Amenzo: - With regard to the names of Grand-father's Brothers and Sisters: Beginning with my Grand-father Benjamin who settled in Lyeden, Mass., there were Brothers Elijah who lived in Lyeden, then in different places in Yorke State and several places in Ohio. The last I ever heard of him, he was living with his son-in-law James Avery in Medina Co., Ohio, where he no doubt died. James Avery married their only daughter Mercy, he was a Methodist preacher. The sons of Elijah were Junia and Zerah. Both had large families, but I know the names of none of their children. In 1847 when I left Ohio, Junia lived at Fairfield, Centre Huron Co., Ohio. Both were men who were continually shifting from place to place. Elijah's wife's name Martha. The next brother was Jirah. He settled in Hoosic Reusselaer Co., N. Y., had sons Clark and Increase who lived in Hoosic or Pittsfield, adjoining and daughters Tabitha and Mercy and one who married John Burns, whose name I do not know. They (the Burns) had children of my age and younger. The oldest was Lockwood Burns. Have understood that Jirah married a daughter of Increase Mosely, but I never heard her name. Some time after Grand-father died, Grand-mother went over to Hoosic and made a long visit, stayed all winter and Uncle Jirah and Aunt came and brought her home. Never saw them at any other time. Should say that he was a man 5 ft. 10 or 11 in. tall, and rather spare. Increase was at our house several times in Mass., a very pleasant and agreeable man, medium size, hair rather sandy. John Burns was there some times, they used to come over the mountain buying up sheep to drive to the Albany market, and once Samuel Baker came with them. He was a cousin but I can't tell which of the four brothers was his father. Next John, he married, but I can't tell whom, settled in Hoosic and raised a large family, but I never saw any of them, unless Samuel was his son. Then Noah, who also married and settled in Hoosic and had many children, and Sherman whom I always supposed to be the youngest brother. He also settled in Hoosic. In the summer of 1828, in Grand-father's last sickness, (he died of Asthma, terminating in dropsy). Uncle Sherman and Aunt and Uncle Jesse and Aunt Sally came over from Hoosic to see him. As I remember him, he was nearly or quite 6 ft. and lacked a good deal of being slim, a man of large frame and though not a fat man, still in good order. He also had a large family, but I knew none of them. I have given these in the order of their ages as I have always understood them. As regards the other brother, Potter, that Mr. Thomas Baker writes of, there was very likely such a one, yet it seems strange that I do not remember hearing of him, for my sisters say the name sounds familiar to them as the name of any of the others. I think Thomas is mistaken about his settling in Leyden. He probably stayed in Rhode Island a good many years and came from there at the time Uncle Elijah sold his place in Leyden, and they went on together from there. As long ago as I can remember, Uncle Elijah and his sons and daughters were living in Onondago Co., N.Y. near where Uncle Simon Baker lived, but the whole of them were continually moving and shifting about, so it is uncertain if that is where they first went from Leyden. Uncle Potter might have lived in the region where my mother's brother Jirah lived. Probably he was older than my Grand-father, as his parents were married Sept. 6, 1742 and Grand-father was not born till June 27, 1750, and probably the sister that married a Harrington was also older than Grand-father and I learn from Thos. Baker's letter that her name was Sarah, had not known before what her name was. The next sister whose name was Lydia married a man named Scribner (never heard his first name) and lived always as far as I know, in Hoosic. I think they had children, but don't know how many. My Great-Grand-mother lived in Hoosic the latter part of her life. Have heard my mother say that Grand-father used to go over to Hoosic every year to see her, as long as she lived. Hoosic was 70 miles from Leyden and over the Green Mts. The youngest sister, Mary, married and settled in West Winfield, near your Grand-father, where they were (she and her children) in 1835. I had got the idea that her husband's name was Clark, but Thomas Baker speaks of it as Babcock, I think it was likely Clark Babcock. I think she had three daughters, no sons, was a widow as long as I ever heard of her. Think none of the daughters were married in 1835, do not recollect any of their names, had property.

I will go back to the next Benjamin. He had no brother and only one sister, Mercy of whom I know only the name. Their father died in 1726 while they were still children. He left no will and Thomas Baker, the uncle of the children, was appointed administrator. As the Uncle who was older than their father outlived him 17 years, their father could not have been a very old man at his death. This second Benjamin married Mary, daughter of Elisha Sherman, 1742 Sept. 6.

Going back to the next Benjamin, do not know the year of his birth. He

was married in 1705 to Mary H___ (it is impossible to make out the name from the old records). This Benjamin had brothers Thomas, older and, James Younger, than himself. Thomas' wife's name was Mary but her maiden name is not known, nor the year of their marriage. They had 13 children, 1st Thomas, born 169-, Jan 7, 2nd John, 1699 Sept. 20; 3rd Jeremiah, 170-, July 26; 4th Abner 170- March 6; 5th Sarah 170- Dec. 15; 6th Josiah 170-, Oct 11; 7th Joshua 17-- Feb. 11; 8th Joseph, 17-- , Feb. 17; 9th Elizabeth; 10th Ann ----; 11th Phillip ----; 12th Ruth ----, 13th Ichabod ----.

Ann was married 1732 April 9, to Daniel Austin who died in 1737 after which she married Stephen Sweet. Thomas in his will made 1743, Feb. 20, mentions all his children, except Joshua, Joseph, and Ruth who probably died before. It is impossible to make out from the record the name of the man who married Sarah. Elizabeth's husband's name was Groves. James married Penelope Westcott, daughter of Amos and Deborah (Stafford) Westcott. They had five children, one a daughter whose name cannot be made out, 2 Daniel ---; 3. Abol ----; 4. George ----; 5. Alice ----. 1729 May 27 Thomas and five others bought 792 acres of the vacant lands in Narragansett. Same date Benjamin and twelve others bought 1823 acres near Devils Foot. These all lived in Kingstown.

Then as we go back we next come to Thomas the father of Thomas Benjamin, and James. The first notice of him I have is the 1653 Dec. 17, in a deed of land in Newport given by George Konrick of Newport to William Field of Providence, he is mentioned as the owner of adjoining land, In 1655 being a member of the First Baptist Church of Newport he was ordained. In 1656, he and William Vaughan and some others left the First Baptist Church and formed a congregation known as the Second Baptist Church of which he was, for a time, Pastor. The reasons given for this separation are thus stated: "Said persons conceived a prejudice against Psalmody and against the restraining to that liberty of prophesying was laid under and also against the rite of laying on of hands as a matter of indifference." You will observe that these are the reasons as stated by those left, not by those leaving. In 1666 he removed to Kingstown and gathered a church together of which he became the first Pastor officiating for many years in that capacity, his successor Richard Sweet following in 1710. This Thomas was a tailor by trade always signing, died after he had been many years a minister. "Thomas Baker tailor". You will see by the above that in 1653 Thomas was of sufficient age to own land and in 1655 to be ordained to the ministry which he would not have been if born in 1638. When you wrote me in 1886 you said you remembered of your father telling you that his father told him that you children had four Grand-fathers right along named Benjamin, but the genealogy as you send it makes five. I feel very sure that there were but four and will write you more particularly why I think so another time and also the reason why it is so difficult to give dates. The things I learn from my book are taken from the old records in every instance I think, and can be depended on as far as they go.

I sent you before some account of the Sherman family which you did not mention as having received. Those snow storms came directly I sent them and I am afraid they were lost. If they were, I will write them off again.

I take it the cousin from whom you received the genealogy you sent, is Mrs. Miner Brown, of Thayer Union Co., Iowa. I think I must inquire how she came by it.

I remain yours sincerely and affectionately,

S. H. Shepherdson.

Home, January 22, 1891

Dear Cousin Amenzo: - The last letter I had from I. N. Thorn, I had asked him to tell me of his sister Eunice who had been dead many years, so he wrote me a long letter about her marrying a Mr. Bullock of Guilford and living in Fitchburg. Died leaving two sons and a daughter, the younger son was sick at the time he wrote, and his sister had gone to Denver to take care of him, and Isaac was looking to hear any hour of his death. He however lived above a month, dying, I think, the 8th of May, and was taken to Guilford for interment, where his mother was buried. They had all lived in Passaic, N. J., where the sons were in the Drug business, and the daughter was at the head of the schools of the city. The older son only was married. He wrote that he would tell me of his brother Rufus, who had been long dead, in another letter, but I have not heard from him since and think he is hardly able to write. Had letter from him before, and once I saw him in 1888. If he had died he would have been taken to Leyden for burial where his Grand-father and father's families are interred, and I should have seen notice of it in the Greenfield Gazette. Had a letter from Jesse Burdick the 17th of May, still at Clitherall Ottertail Co., Minn. His and his sister's folks were all well. Janette's children are all married and two of Jesse's. Jackson he wrote was living in Jackson Co., Mo., but did not give his address. His oldest daughters were married and gone there to live. I wrote to Cousin Sarah the 11th of May last and she wrote a good long letter in reply in June, thinking they would be out here some time in the summer, but did not come, so the 25th of Sept. I wrote them saying I would start for their place the 29th, got to Thayer at 3 p.m. where I found him awaiting me. Found them real nice folks, they were glad I had come, and I was glad I went, they live 3 miles South of Thayer, have been there 8 years. Thayer is 4 miles East of the Grand River but it bears to the East so it cuts off a little of the S.W. corner of Mr. Brown's place. He has a good place, 190 acres where they live and 80 more a mile North on the road to town. Fourmile Creek runs across the East end of the home farm and takes a corner off the other. Pisgah which you will doubtless remember, is only a few miles from them up the River. The settlement was on Sections 5 and 8 Township 72 N. Range 28 W. The half mile stake between Sections 5 and 8 is in the Burr Oak grove where they used to hold meetings when the weather was fine. The grove is there yet. The Cemetery is S. W. of the grove on the S. E. 1/4 (I judge) of the N. W. Quarter of Sec. 8. The cemetery is fenced with woven wire, there is a monument there erected by the Salt Lake people 12 feet high on which is inscribed all the names they could learn of those buried there, though they could obtain the names of only a small portion of those who lie there. My father was buried there but it is now impossible to tell the exact spot. There is a small low rough stone inscribed H. S. which probably marks the grave of Hyrum Spencer and I think this is the only grave that can be exactly identified. I copied all the names from the four sides, and will send them to you if they would be of interest to any of you. My father's name is not among them. There is another R.R. nearer Pisgah than the C.B. & Q. It runs from Kansas City to Des Moines and is called the Diagonal, it crosses the C.B. & Q. where they both cross Grand River and leaves Pisgah a little to the N.W. Cousin Sarah knows nothing of any genealogy of our forefathers. Please write. I remain affectionately and truly yours,

W. H. Shepardson.

P.S.

Thinking it might interest you, I send you herewith a leaf from my father's old family record, containing the names of your Grand-father and some of his brothers and sister written by their Uncle Newman Tucker of Rhode Island about the year 1828.

-oOo-

Home March 15, 1891.

Dear Cousin Amenzo:- Had a letter yesterday giving news of the death of my cousin in Mass., Warren A. Bell, left a wife and one son about 15, a good, steady boy who will be a comfort and support to his mother. Warren married Mary, daughter of Crandall Thorn who is consequently an own cousin of your father. They are left in comfortable circumstances. Think you did not direct to the right place to find Uncle Simons children. He had lived in several different places but all of them as far as I know, in Onondaga Co. When we moved to Ohio he lived about 4 miles

East of Skaneateles and his P.O. was Marcellus. Try writing to Marcellus Onondaga Co. N.Y. My father and mother were baptized in 1843 by Elder Petaliah Brown and joined the Mormon Church. There were no others where they lived in Ohio and they knew nothing of the peculiar doctrines of the Mormons till they came to Nauvoo in the spring of 1846 and never believed in Poligamy or anything of that kind. None of the children ever belonged to the Mormon Church. Since the death of Gen. Sherman learned from the papers that the Gen's. Ancestor Samuel Sherman came with his brother Rev. John Sherman from Essex Co. England to Boston in 1634 but in a few years removed to Conn. where the family remained till the Gen's. father removed to Ohio where the Gen. was born. Our ancestor Sherman came from Dedham Essex Co. in 1633. His father's name was Samuel and he had a son and 5 grand-sons of that name and a son and three grand-sons named John. As Samuel and John seemed to be such favorite names with our ancestors I was thinking whether the Gen's. emigrant ancestor might not have been the father or the brother of ours. Our ancestor came over in early manhood being but 23 years old, so his father might not have been too old to have come the next year.

Yours affectionately and truly,

W. H. Shepardson.

-oOo-

At Home June 5th, 1891

Amenzo W. Baker, Mendon, Utah

Dear Cousin!- Yours of May 11th was duly received am very glad you have heard at length from Uncle Simon's children, though it seems so sad that they should all have died but Roxana. I thank you for the letter you were so good as to copy. I remember all of the children though I could not recall the names with certainty of but five of them. Have not heard recently from Cousin Sarah though I hope they will not go away without coming to see us. My brother is here now visiting us, did not receive your letter at Red Cloud. Went from there to Truckee Cal. and was there less than a year. His home is with his son-in-law and daughter who went from Truckee a year ago to Vidalia La where Kennedy is General Master Mochanic on the R.R. Joseph came up from there in March there being nothing to do there at that time the R.R. being not completed and the construction company having quit work and the R. R. discharging all the men not absolutely indispensable. However, they have gone to work again now and the road will be built at least to Bastrop where it will connect with one of Jay Gould's Roads and probably much farther. He was named Joseph Baker Shepardson but when he was grown he discarded the Baker and took instead Maryland so he writes as his full name Maryland Joseph Shepardson, but usually M. J. Shepardson. We hear from his folks every week, got a letter today. They are all well. Sister Mary's folks were well the first of the week they live only 20 or 25 miles from here. Though not rich, they are comfortably well off, have a good deal more than I have and it is in much better shape to bring in something by way of income. I probably wrote you a couple of years ago that James Lambert was married again. This spring he rented his place for three years to his 2nd son and went to live on a place his wife owns that was her father's formerly. One of his daughters was married last March, was a year and another one in December and three children were married before, so he is rid of all but four and one of them is of age and none of them live at home. His wife has two daughters married and a son some 18 years of age who can do the hoft of the work on the farm.

Yours affectionately and truly,

W. H. Shepardson

Home Jan 24, 1892

Dear Cousin Amenzo:- We have not a scrap of Uncle Jesse's writing in the world and I doubt if the Burdicks have. Have not heard from them for long. The last I heard Jesse was living in Clithorall, Minn. and also Janet Whiting, and Jackson was in Jackson Co., Mo. where his sons-in-law had gone, and his wife must needs be near her daughters. Have had no letter from Jerrah Miner since I was East though I have written to him, and there may be something about him sometimes among the local news of the Greenfield paper, though nothing of particular interest. Had letter from In. N. Thorn about the first of April 1890 and a paper in April 1891 and nothing later. Wrote to Cous. Roxana Rathburn Aug. 27, having received a letter from her July 11 and have heard nothing more recently. Had a letter from Cous. Sarah Brown July 21 and wrote to her Sept. 16, and have heard nothing further. When she wrote they expected to come and see us the latter part of October or the fore part of Nov. Fanny had taught with good success in the summer and was very soon to commence another term at the same place. She taught the school in the village of Thayer. They had sold their farm but would still live on it till the coming spring. Did not know yet where they would go or what they would do, had thought some of returning to York State but the children were greatly averse to going back. His health was hardly good enough to stand hard work and she wanted to go to some little town where Mr. Brown could go into some kind of business. I must write them again and see why they don't come and why they don't write. I learn from the paper that your Niles Cousin who married Whitman Wheeler is in poor health as is also her husband. They live on the farm where Cousin Sarah's folks lived and where she was born. Your Cous. Mary Bell is getting along well. Willie is an excellent good steady boy and does the work of the farm with some help. He must be 16 now, I think, and Mary is pretty good to manage. Her mother who lives now with a daughter in Springfield, Mass. was making her a long visit this last fall. Mary is a very nice woman, like her old Grand-mother Prudence, exceedingly neat, "there is not so much dirt about the house as a fly could carry off on his wings" and she in looks resembles her Grand-mother considerably. My brother went home to Louisiana when cold weather began to come on, they were making garden when he got home though it was colder there than usual, have not heard from him in a month now.

Best regards to all the Kindred.

Yours truly,

William H. Shopardson

-oOo-

Home, April 11, 1892.

Dear Cousin Amenzo:- Yours of March 19 came duly to hand and found us all well. We are glad of the likeness and thank you for it. There came at the same time a large Photo of a house which we thought was most likely your dwelling, but when I read the letter, I found nothing whatever about any house so I began to look more critically at the handwriting. It was extremely like yours except the initial H and then I examined the post mark but could make little of it except the last letters of the P. O. were ry, and the State Mass. so when I thought a little I knew whose house it must be. When we lived in Mass. I knew a little girl the daughter of a sister of my step-grandmother Shopardson. She had relatives living near Boston and married there a Mr. Chapman and has lived always in Roxbury, so I conjectured it was a Photo of their house and a week later I received a letter telling me she had sent it. We used to be playmates when I was three years old and she nearly a year older and I was in hopes she would remember the times when we used to play together, but she remembers nothing beyond the time when she was big enough to take her little basket of dinner and go to school by herself 3/4 of a mile. Our folks had moved to Leyden before this which was only 2-1/2 miles away so she used to see us all often, and remembers us all afterwards, and always thought that we were cousins till she was pretty well grown. The relatives hereabouts are all well as far as I have heard. Have not heard from the Burdicks for a long time, must write to Jesse before long. Had a letter from Cous. Roxana Rathburn Feb. 23, and also her photo; she will be 70 her next birthday, think she shows age less than I do or you either. They were well except one of her sons who had the grippe in the fall and did not seem to get entirely over it readily. Received a letter from Cousin Sarah Brown the 9th of Feb., they had bought a place 3 M.N. of Thayer 6 M. from their old place) and would move the first of March. There is a station on the other R. R. (Chicago St. Paul & Kansas City) nearer than Thayer, still they will have their mail

come to Thayer for the present. They designed to visit us last fall but he could not get through his work till their daughter had to begin her school and then they thought they would come at the holidays when the school had a vacation but about ten days before she got down with the grippe and he also took it just before Christmas, so the visit fell through and she had been unable to go out anywhere hardly since, but was mending slowly when she wrote. Fannie will stay home this spring as with moving etc., there will be a good deal to do and Sarah's health is not very strong at any time. Have not heard directly from any of our cousin in Mass. Saw by the paper some time ago that Jerrah Miner was suffering from cancerous affection of which there was no probability of his being cured. Don't know but I wrote you of this before. Think Cousin Mary Bell and Willie are getting along very well indeed, he being a nice steady boy and she a woman of sufficient mind to plan wisely. Think if I. N. Thorn was different from what he has been for so long I should have heard of it, either better or worse. Heard from my brother a week ago they were well, have had an uncommonly cold winter down there and also a great amount of rain. Two of our nephews started West a couple of weeks ago seeking their fortune. They are Lewis and Walter Lambert 20 and 18 years old. They were going first to Albany, Ore. and sent a card from there that they would start in the morning for Wallawalla. Since then we had a letter dated from Stella, Wash. but we have no idea what part of the territory Stella is in. However, they happened to run on to a couple of cousins of theirs so we know they are with friends. I see I failed to make myself understood in what I wrote you a good while ago. It is not my book that was injured by fire, but the old town records of Kingstown. Both our Baker and Sherman ancestors settled in that town at an early day and they and their posterity continued to live there for more than a hundred years. The town record showed the births, marriages, deaths, the tax payers, and the amount each paid, the number of troops and the length of service the names of each individual, deeds and leases were all recorded, also wills, inventories of estates, etc. The Select Men of the Town were the Court before which the probate business was done and the town clerk kept the record, etc. These are some of the things that were done in every town, but there were always things that were neglected, things were not recorded that should be recorded and this with the perishability of paper and the fading out of the ink, with accidents of various kinds tend to the imperfection of the records. Thus the Records of Kingstown should show when and to whom the first Benjamin was married but one can only learn the year 1705 and that he married Mary H_____, her maiden name save the initial being entirely obliterated. The birth of their children not on record, we can only know that there were two children, Benjamin and Mercy, that their father died about 1726 without having made a will and that his older brother was appointed administrator by the court. Of our Sherman ancestor Eber who came to Kingstown at an early day we can only learn that his wife's first name was Mary that they had six sons and one daughter but can learn the birth date of none of them. That Eber died 1706 that the will was proved but at what date cannot be made out, that he left his oldest son 100 acres of land and land to all his sons but the number of acres cannot be known, it cannot be known whether his wife or daughter were mentioned in the will or not. They may have died before. The will of his brother next younger than he Polog was also recorded in Kingstown and some of the legacies are illegible. He came to Kingstown but a few years before his death in 1619 having lived most of his life in Portsmouth Dartmouth, and Swanzy. I will tell you of the book that I have. It is the "The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island" and gives the genealogy for three generations of every family who settled in Rhode Island before 1690. It tells nearly all that is known about those of the first and second generation. Of the third generation it gives only the names and date of birth when known. Gives the place of residence, abstracts of wills, etc. Inventories, the occupation, etc. The book has nearly 450 pages, a good deal larger than a school atlas, nearly as large as Johnson's or Mitchell's general atlas, nearly half the book is taken up with families whose genealogy is given for four generations. If you would like the book, send a draft or P. O. payable to J. O. Austin of Providence, R. I. for \$10.00 to him, and he will send you the book by express charges paid. He puts them in a pasteboard box so they will come securely. There is no genealogy of the Tuckers, they having lived elsewhere probably over the line, Mass.

We are all well and I remain,

Yours truly,

W. H. Shepardson.

P. S.

Forgot to tell you of the hard winds one reads of in the papers and that caused the loss of 30 or 40 lives in Kansas a week ago Friday, did no damage to speak of here though a good deal in Missouri and Neb. just a straight South wind that blew all day.

PISGAH MONUMENT EAST SIDE.

"This Monument Erected A. D. 1888 in memory of those Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints who died in 1846, 1847, and 1848 during their Exodus to seek a home beyond the Rocky Mountains, interred here: William Huntington, the first Presiding Elder of the temporary settlement called Pisgah, Lenora Charlotte Snow, Daughter of Elder Lorenzo and Charlotte Squires Snow, Isaac Phineas Richards, son of Elder Franklin D. and Jane Snyder Richards."

ON THE SOUTH SIDE.

"Betsy Cary Shipley, Nephi Shipley, David McKee, Polly Sweet, Louisa Cox, Eliza Cox, Henry Davis, Joel Campbell, Emily Whiting, Elisha Whiting, Sally Whiting, Widow Head Whiting, Elizabeth Daniels, Rebecca Adair, William P. Mangum, Lane Ann Mangum, Jemima Mangum Adair, William Jefferson Adair."

The Cemetery at Pisgah probably contains an acre, is fenced with woven wire, the monument is twelve feet high.

ON THE WEST SIDE.

"Ezra T. B. Adair, Nancy Workman, Samuel Workman, Samuel Steel, Simeon Thayer, Cleah Thayer, Jesse Hitchcock wife, Clark Hallott, Phoebe Hallott, Ann Gould Hallott, Louise Hulet, and two other children, Sarah Hulet, Sarah Ann Hulet, Noah Rogers, Amos Philomon Rogers, Mary Bryant Ensign, Margaret Josephine Billingsby."

NORTH SIDE.

"Hyrum Spencer, Alvah Hancock, Gardner Edmison, Philinda Calvin Jordan, Joseph Smith Billingsley, Elkano Keller, Mrs. Baldwin and baby, Mr. Hess and Mr. Hays buried on the West side of the River, Joseph Merryfield, Mr. Cook, Wife of Mr. Brown Mr. Thompson, William Silvanus Bishop, Joseph Franklin Bishop, Angeline Carter, Stranger not in the Church, Henry Judson, Alexander Gay, Benjamin Gay, Emma Jane Johnson, Martha A. Dana."

You see, Cousin, how few the names they could obtain though there are 300 more or less buried there. There is a low rough stone marked H. S. and the exact place of any other grave can not likely be told. H. S. probably Hyrum Spencer.

-oOo-

Home, January 31, 1893

Mr. A. W. Baker:

Mendon, Utah.

Dear Cousin:- Received your letter and photo Saturday. Think the likeness better than the other, guess our cousin is a better artist than the other man, or else you yourself are like wine that improves with age, at any rate I thank you for it, and also for the letters you enclosed. With regard to the letters think the Bakers Mrs. Cook speaks of are unlikely to be of our kindred and the same may be said of Mrs. Gammons letter. It is possible they are descended from our first ancestor Rev. Thos. Baker but if so they are descended through either his oldest or his third son, the 2nd son being our ancestor. There is nothing that I know of which renders it probable that Mr. N. A. Baker is of our kindred. One would gather that his fore-fathers came from Scotland not many years before the massacre of Wyoming.

This occurred in the summer of 1763, when our forefathers had been living and dying in R. I. for 110 years and no one knows how much more. There is nothing that I know of to indicate that our Baker ancestors came from any other place than England. Very few indeed of the first settlers of New England came from any other place. These three letters are no doubt good and true, but I know of no reason to suppose that the Bakers they mention are of our kindred. Then the letter of Mr. W. E. Baker of Pontiac, Ill. I would think it likely to be correct you made a mistake in copying it with regard to the husband of Hester Baker, his name was John Burns not Brown. He was at my father's several times for a number of days. He and Increase Baker used to come over to Leyden and vicinity and buy sheep which they would drive to Albany to market. They always made their headquarters at my father's while buying and gathering up their drove. I remember Mr. Burns told me of a son of his who was nearly of my age. His name was Lockwood Burns. On one occasion when Increase was busy at something else Mr. Burns had another cousin of ours with him, Samuel Baker. He was not a brother of Increase but I cannot tell which of the other Uncles was his father. Increase was at our house on other occasions so I know him and Mr. Burns pretty well. I knew that Increase had a brother, Clark, older than himself, and that Mrs. Burns was his sister, but never saw any of them and don't remember hearing about the others. Uncle Jirah and Aunt were at our house once for a few days in 1831-2 or 3. Don't remember her name, though I probably heard it at the time. Mr. W. E. Baker does not give the name of his grandmother, else it might be confirmatory of Mrs. Tanner who gives it as Mary. Cousin Sarah Brown of Thayer, Iowa, would doubtless know it as her folks were living with Aunt at the time of her father's death. Uncle having died before, and cousin S. was at the time 12 or 14 years of age. My father and mother went to Hoosic visiting in 1830 in the fall when I was 6 years old, would be 7 in Dec., were there two or three weeks. Uncles Jirah, John, Noah, and Sherman and Aunt Lydia Scribner were all living in Hoosic at that time and also Uncle Jesse and Aunt Sally. Remember of mother speaking frequently afterwards of two grown-up, married girls, sisters, Tabitha and Mercy were their names and Mercy painted some roses on paper which she sent to Bro. Joseph and myself and one on Satin to Sister Mary. I think Mary has hers yet but am not quite certain. Would have painted on satin for all three only she burnt her hand and could not do it before mother left, so she sent us such as she had. I had the impression that these girls were daughters of Uncle Jirah, but it seems I was mistaken. Mr. W. E. Baker is wild in his guess of the time his grandfather settled in Hoosic. My grandfather was older than any of his brothers that settled in Hoosic, was born in June 1750 but would have been only 20 years of age in 1770. Grandfather came to Leyden about 1777 and afterwards when his brothers left R. I. they went to Hoosic because the price of land in Leyden had gone up till it was beyond their means. The land in Leyden was when new considered much superior to that in Hoosic but before my day the Hoosic land was worth double. I always heard this talked about since I can first remember. Mr. W. E. Baker does not tell which of the sons of Uncle Jirah was his father, but I judge it was Jirah. Uncle Jirah could hardly have gone to Hoosic till some time in the eighties. I knew that the maiden name of Uncle Jirah's wife was Mosely but did not know her given name. Mr. W. E. speaks of two brothers coming to Hoosic. Perhaps there were three who came at one time but there were certainly four that lived there. I see no reason why Mrs. Tanner's account may not be correct. She tells of a brother and a sister of my grandfather that I never heard of before, I knew he had a sister who married a Harrington and a sister Lydia who married a Scribner and a sister Mary called Polly who married Clark Babcock, but of Mercy who married a Hawley and of Norman I had never heard. We had a cousin named Norman Baker Miner who was probably named for his mother's uncle Norman. Though Mrs. Tanner does not name my grandfather Benjamin nor Uncle Elijah, I see no reason to question her account as far as it goes. With regard to the name of her (and my) great-grandmother, I will only say, that double names were at that time and place extremely unusual. The Potter certainly could not have been her maiden name, for that was undoubtedly Sherman, and she could not have been a 2nd wife for Mary Sherman certainly outlived her husband, spending the latter part of her life with some of her children in Hoosic, where grandfather living in Leyden used to visit her, as I have heard my mother say every year, as long as she lived. Mrs. Tanner I take it must certainly have known the name of her grandfather Thomas P. Baker and one can hardly call in question her accuracy on the ground of the infrequency of double names. The very old gentleman who wrote you sometime ago from Hoosic mentioning the fact that Uncle Elijah and Uncle Potter stopped with his father when moving West, would only show which part of his name was habitually used by those familiar with him. Mrs. Tanner's father, Benjamin, the son of Potter, was first cousin to your grandfather Benjamin the son of Benjamin. The question I want to ask is Where? Where did Uncle Potter settle when he and Uncle Elijah removed

to York State? I know where Uncle Elijah went but I could hear nothing of Uncle Potter. Uncle Elijah went to Spofford in Onondago Co., first and there is where our Uncle Simon Baker used to live but his daughter Roxana Rathburn knows no more of Uncle Potter and his family than I did before I saw the letter which the old gentleman in Hoosic wrote, which is nothing at all. Suppose you go yourself and examine the record in the endowment house if they will allow you and I think they would not object when they know what you want of it. Go and see Mrs. Tanner and talk with her a long time, I can see she has an uncommon memory, and will remember a thousand little things that she could tell you that would seem to be of no importance in themselves, which when you put them together would amount to a great deal. Still the best thing to do is to go to Kingston to Newport and all the places in Southern "I. and to Hoosic and look over all the town records and go into all the old burying grounds and cemeteries and copy everything throwing any light on what you want to know from the headstone. Baker is not by any means an unusual name, there are Bakers and Bakers even in Hoosic where there were so many of our kin and so many of the name it was called the Baker Settlement; there were families that were no kin to the others. I knew one William Baker in Ohio who was born and raised in Hoosic and he said there were other families of Bakers in the town that were not relatives of his, nor of our kindred. There was a Capt. Thomas Baker rather prominent in the early Indian wars in New England and in efforts for the exchange of prisoners that the Indians had captured, and that were held by the French in Canada, but by his age I could see he was no kin to the R. I. Bakers, unless it was farther back than the Rev. Thos. Baker. The Bakers of our kindred have as far as we know, been American not quite 250 years, and there were essentially all there in R. I. till the time of the Revolution, full half the time they have been in America they were in R. I.

This is now the 8th of March: I wrote thus far a good while ago, thinking to send it soon, but wanted to first pay my taxes and some other dues, hoping I would have money left to send for the Gen. Dic. of R. I., but I did not. The price has been reduced \$4.50, so instead of \$10.00, it will now take only \$5.50. Send a draft, a P. O. money order or an express money order (payable to "Gregory's Bookstore") for \$5.50 to "Gregory's Bookstore No. 133-137 Westminster Street, Providence R. I., telling them which express company has an office in your place and they will send you the book by prepaid express, but I am still doubtful if you will find the book as useful to you as you hope.

We are still in about our usual health, have the rheumatism in my right shoulder so it is with great difficulty I can put on and off my clothes, but I can, by being very careful, do any other necessary thing. The friends and relatives hereabouts are well as far as I know. It is raining a little today, misty and drizzly. Last night is the first in three months that it did not freeze at all. Just three months ago we had a foot or more of snow, and some of it is left yet in the wood, on the north slopes, and the drifts, have had a long cold winter, the coldest 14 degrees below, but have had no blizzards, no worse storms that we may expect every winter. In Mass. they have now 4 feet of snow and put up ice 34 inches thick before their snow came. Our cousin Austin Miner died Feb. 23rd, aged 73 years 9 months. Jerrah's health is better than it was. I don't know whether their sister who was in the asylum is living or not, if not, Jerrah is the only one of Aunt Hannah's 13 children left. Six of them were older than I and 7 of them younger.

Please write I remain,

Yours affectionately and truly

W. H. Shepardson.

-oOo-

Home, January 21, 1894

Dear Cousin Amozo:- Yours of the 5th inst. found us all in our usual health. We were very glad to hear from you again. Had a letter a while ago from Cous. Sarah Brown, they were all well. They designed to visit us the last fall but one thing and another hindered. They live as near Thayer as formerly but in the opposite direction, North or about 4 miles S. E. of old Pisgah. There is a station on the other R. R. (the Chicago, St. Paul & Kansas City) rather nigher them than Thayer and they have mail come to both places. This station is Lorimer. This R. R. passes

between them and Pisgah runs N. E. & S. W. and crosses the other R. R. and Grand River at the same time at a place called Afton Junction 3 or 4 miles East of Afton. They have a good farm of 175 acres, built a new house in '92, have barn and sheds for stock but need a large barn for hay. Their daughter teaches all the time and is very successful. Had a letter from Jesso Burdick since harvest. His folks and Janet's are well. He is comfortably fixed now, has a good piece of land some 125 acres, comfortable house, 25 or 30 acres cleared and grubbed; it was all timber. His older daughter married some one against their wishes and he never writes of her, his older son was married, has lived in Dacotah, but moves around a good deal, was in South Carolina last, he was heard of a good while ago. Jess had two little children when here that are grown up noarly, now living at home. Janet has a good many children all grown up and married, think they all live in the Clithcrall region. Jackson died two or three years ago in Jackson Co. Missouri, think his family are there yet, pretty poor I guess. Jack was a pretty good fellow, honest and straight, but was rather too fond of whiskey. His older children were girls and are married and live in the neighborhood where he died. Regarding Cyrus Harrington, he was own cousin of your Grandfather and my mother. He was a son of Benjamin Harrington who married my Grandfather's sister Sarah Baker, was born and grew up in R. Island came up to Leyden, Mass. a young man, and after a year or two married Sallie Avery, one of my mother's mates but twoto four years older than mother. Not very long after thoir marriage, they went to Smyrna, Chenango Co., N. Y. where they lived many years, where most of their children grew up and where he died. Their older son Sidney lived at his Grandfather Avery's from 1826 or 7 until 1832 or 3, when he went to his father in York State about 1836 and 1837, he was two years in R. I. in company with two of his cousins. Their business was renovating feather beds. They went to different factory villages as they found business. Afterwards he was in Ohio two or three years and finally went with two other young men to Southern Indiana where he died in a year or two. Cyrus had another son, Nathaniel, who lived (and lives still for aught I know) in Smyrna; also two daughters who came at different times to their Grandfather's or Uncle's in Mass. and taught school thereabouts and married there; one of them married Ozias L. Minor. He was not our cousin but a cousin of our cousin's and an old schoolmate of mine and nearly of my age. She lived but a few years and O. L. now lives in Brattleboro, Vt. with his 3rd wife. The other Harrington girl married my cousin Thomas J. Shepardson. They lived in Conway, Mass. where she died about 1877 leaving a daughter and three sons, Mary, Clinton, Frank, and Burt. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Harrington went back to Mass. and lived with my cousin in Conway. She outlived her daughter two or three years. After 7 years my cousin married again and now lives in Saratoga Springs, N. Y. His wife's name was Desire, cannot recall the name of O. L.'s wife. I have the impression that there were at least two other daughters that still lived in Smyrna. Sidney was 8 or 9 years older than I. Don't know which was the older of the two daughters that came to Mass. but Ozias was some 4 years older than Thomas. The geneology of the Harrington's for three generations is in the Gen. Dic. of R. I. and if it would be of interest to Mrs. Tanner, I will copy it off and send it to you. The name was formerly spelt in a great variety of ways. In the Dic. it is spelt Hearnden but the author says it is the same name as Harrington. I knew a man in Ohio who was called Harnden (don't know how he spelt it) and he said his name was the same as Harrington. When Sidney was in R.I. 1836-7, his Grandmother Harrington was still living but very aged. I never saw Cyrus Harrington nor any of his family except Sidney but know him just as well as I know anybody. There were Harringtons in Ohio named Isaac & Parley and one here named Daniel having sons Cyrus and Daniel, but I can give no dates of births, marriages or deaths which is what you ask for. Our corn crop was good most others not good, very few apples, corn worth 23 & 24 very dry, no good soaking rain since Aug. 15, winter unusually warm 2 mornings 1 degrees and 5 degrees below, many mornings no frost. Best regards to you all. Please write.

I remain yours affectionately,

W. H. Shepardson.

-oOo-

Monday Morning 22, 1894.

I forgot to tell you of the Eastern cousins, I. N. Thorn is entirely confined to his bed and they thought a year ago he could not live long but he holds out yet as far as I know. It was thought longer ago than that, that Jerrah Minor could hold out but a few months but he went to Boston to a celebrated physician who

benefitted him greatly and he is able to work some but not a great deal. Mary Thorn Bell's health is not good. Willie is an excellent boy so they get along well financially and everything about the place is kept as neat and snug as when Warren was living.

Since yesterday it has grown colder and the Therm. is most down to zero and it is snowing some and the wind is sharp enough to shave one.

24th, Cold snap therm. yesterday morning 1 degree at night 10 degrees this morning 20 degrees below zero. No one been to town yet this week.

W. H. Shopardson

The oldest Baker Ancestor of whom I have yet heard was Thomas Baker who owned land and lived in Newport R. I. in 1653 Dec. 17. He was by trade a tailor. In 1655 he was ordained a Baptist Minister. In 1656 with William Vaughan and some others left the first Baptist Church and formed a congregation known as the second Baptist Church of which he was for a time Pastor. About 1666 he removed to Kingstown where he gathered a church together of which he became the first pastor officiating in that capacity for many years, his successor Richard Sweet following in 1710. In 1685 Dec. 24, being then a resident of Newport he bought of Ralph Paine of Newport 25 acres of land in Providence. In 1689 Feb. 25, he lived in Kingstown and sold to Joseph Smith some part of his possessions in Providence. His wife's name was Sarah. The name of her parents and the date and place of her birth not known, and the same of his. They had three children Thomas, Benjamin, and James. (1) Thomas married Mary ----. They had 13 children: 1. Thomas 169- Jan 7th, 2. John 1699, Sept. 20, 3. Jeromiah 170- July 26, 4. Abner 170- March 6, 5. Sarah 170- Dec. 15; 6. Josiah 170- Oct. 11; 7. Joshua 17-- Feb. 11; 8. Joseph 17-- Feb. 17; 9. Elizabeth 10. Ann; 11. Philip; 12. Ruth; 13. Ichabod. Both were dead in Feb. 1743 (2) Benjamin married Mary ----. They had 2 children: 1. Benjamin, our progenitor and, 2. Mercy. He died 1726 and his Bro. Thomas administered the estate. (3) James married Penelope Westcott, daughter of Amos and Deborah (stafford) Westcott. They had 5 children: 1. daughter; 2. Daniel; 3. Abel; 4. George; 5. Alice. This Benj. Jr. married Mary, daughter of Elisha Sherman 1746 Sept. 16. Benj. Sr. was married 1705 to Mary H ----.

Philip Sherman b. 1610, d. 1687. His father was Samuel, his grand-father Henry, his great-grand-father Henry. They are all thought to have lived and died in Essex Co., England, but I have learned no dates as regards them nor who their wives were. Philip M. Sarah Odding. She died 1681. He came to Mass. in 1633. From Dedham Eng. and settled in Roxburg. Came to R. I. in 1638. He and 18 others formed a settlement at Portsmouth R. I. in March of that year. Had children: 1. Eber 1634; 2. Sarah 1636; 3. Peleg 1638; 4. Mary 1639; 5. Edmund 1641; 6. Samson 1642; 7. William 1643; 8. John 1644. Eber married Mary ----. He died 1706. They had children: 1. Eber; 2. Samuel; 3. Stephen; 4. Elisha; 5. William; 6. Peleg; 7. Abigail. Elisha married ----, had a daughter Mary who married Benj. Baker as above and was my great-grand-mother. (Philip and Sarah had more children). 9. another Mary 1645; 10. Hannah 1647; 11. Samuel 1648; 12. Benjamin 1650; 13. Philip 1652 Oct 1. Eber and Peleg lived in Kings Town the others mostly in Portsmouth but some in Dartmouth, Mass. I could write you a good deal more about Philip Shorman and also about most of his 13 children and the names and date of birth of most of his more than 80 grand-children if it would be of interest to you. Think I had before writton of grand-father and his brothers and sisters the children of Benjamin and Mary (Sherman) Baker. Have not been able to make anything of the Tuckers as yet. If I can learn anything that will join onto grand-ma I will let you know. My great-grand-mother Mary Sherman may possibly have been a daughter of either Stephen William or Peleg Sherman instead of Elisha as all four had daughters named Mary. Though there may be some little doubt which of the four was her father there is none whatever as to her being a grand-daughter of Eber Sherman.

THE BAKER LINE.

1. Thomas M. Sarah ----
2. Benjamin M. 1705 Mary H ----
3. Benjamin M. 1742 Mary Sherman
4. Benjamin N. Hannah Tucker
5. Benjamin M. Rebecca Thorn
6. Simon M. &c.
7. Amenzo M. &c.

THE SHERMAN LINE.

1. Henry M. -----
- 2 Henry M. -----
3. Samuel M. -----
4. Philip M. Sarah Odding.
5. Eber M. Mary -----
6. Elisha M. -----
7. Mary M. Benj. Baker
8. Benj. Hannah Tucker
9. Benj. Rebecca Thorn.
10. Simon -----
11. Amonzo &c.

The records at North Kingston have been so damaged fire that some not consumed are nearly or quite illegible. James Baker lived at Kingstown but the 2nd Thomas and the 1st. Benjamin at North Kingston.

-oOo-

Home, Feb. 9th, 1894.

Dear Cousin Amonzo:-- Some one kindly sent me the "Windham County Reformer" from Brattleboro, from which I copy the Obituary Notice of your Cousin, I. N. Thorn. The first wife's name was Angeline Augusta the oldest daughter of Cyrus C. Miner, and a Niece of Eli W. Miner, who married your Aunt Mary Baker. These Miners were not our Cousins, but the Cousins of our Cousins. In some notices of his death his age is given as 71 years 10 months but I think this notice gives his true age. And that there was a mistake of a year in the other notices. You will no doubt be glad to learn the native country of the Emigrant who settled in Rhode Island at too late a date (1754 - 1760) to be counted among the first settlers who were there in 1690, or before. I have always had the impression (and think I cannot have been mistaken) that he, I. N., had been since his youth, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was greatly surprised that nothing was said about the matter in the notice. I can not understand it at all. I thought I would write again to let you know of Isaac's death. Please write.

I remain, affectionately, Your Cousin,

W. H. Shepardson.

Death of Isaac N. Thorn.

"From the Windham County Reformer:-- Jan. 12th. 1894. Brattleboro."

I. N. Thorn, so long one of Brattleboro's most respected, most upright, capable and worthy business men, died this morning at about half past six o'clock, at the age of nearly 71. He had been failing for several weeks with a complication of diseases resulting from rheumatism, and the end has long been seen to be inevitable. Isaac N. Thorn was for a long time, a widely known and highly esteemed business man of this town. The last 9 years of his life he had been practically confined to his home, though on pleasant days in summer, he was able to sit in his wheel chair on his veranda and upon his lawn, rheumatism depriving him entirely of the use of his lower limbs. Mr. Thorn was born in Leyden, Mass. March 1, 1823. His Great Grand Father, Isaac Thorn, was English and came to this country during the old French and Indian War, settling in Westerly, R. I. His Grand-father, Henry Thorn, entered the Revolution Army at the age sixteen and served through seven years of the war, and until the colonies achieved their independence. He passed the memorable winter with Washington's Army at Valley Forge, and was in the battles, of Trenton, and Monmouth and many other battles of the war. He was as valorous in love as in arms. When peace was declared, he went into the service of a rich and aristocratic farmer, named Noyes, and naturally enough, fell in love with one of his daughters. The father opposed and forbade their marriage, because the young man was a poor soldier, though admitting that he was of good character, and threatened his daughter with disinheritance if she disobeyed his commands. She married young Thorn; was disinherited, and the young couple went to Leyden among the first settlers of that town and raised a large family of children. His son Henry, the father of Isaac N. was a tanner and carried and erected large building for his busi-

ness, and also ran a sawmill and grist mill. An incident in his life deserves mention. He got heavily in debt in the erection and alterations of his mills and was urged by his friends to go into Bankruptcy and cancel his obligations. He said, "No"; he owed the money and would pay it if it took him his life time. After many years of struggle he, with the aid of his sons had the satisfaction of paying every dollar he owed, principal and interest. I. N. Thorn had had 3 or 4 years experience as clerk, in a country store in Illinois, Wisconsin, and in Coleraine, Mass., prior to the summer of 1848, when he came to this town under the employment of Dutton and Clark. The firm kept a general assortment of goods, but made Drugs and medicines a speciality. In this branch of the business, Mr. Thorn became greatly interested, and applied himself to become a thorough Druggist. At the end of ten years, he commenced business for himself, in the old Fisk block, where by his skill and reliability as a druggist and his untiring industry, he built up a large and profitable business. His trade during the war was very large. When Geo. E. Greene returned from the army, he became a partner in the firm of I. N. Thorn and Co. and remained such for several years. The firm fitted up the elegant store now occupied by Heldon & Co. in Crosby block and continued the business until Mr. Greene's retirement in 1878 when Mr. Thorn took his son Edwin C. into partnership. The firm of I. N. Thorn and Co. did an extensive business until the fall of 1884, when on account of Mr. Thorn's failing health, the business was sold out to C. M. Colburn & Co. Mr. Thorn never sought or desired public office. His life was devoted to his business and his home. On account of his retiring disposition, he perhaps, did not pass for all that he was intellectually worth, except with those who knew him well. His natural abilities were of an excellent order, and he improved his mind by extensive reading of news papers, magazines, and books. Every spare hour was improved in reading, especially biography and history. The number of books which he read during the long years of his illness was very large. Books were friends indeed, when he became shut off from active life. His interest in public men and in the political affairs of the country was intense, and was maintained until near his death. At the Presidential election, in 1884 he was carried to the polls to vote for Mr. Blaine for whom he had a warm personal admiration. He had a strong will, won success by his almost resistless energy, was impatient of opposition, but was withal, a kind hearted, honest man. His first wife was a niece of O. L. Miner. Of this marriage were born, Isaac B. formerly a druggist here, Henry C. of Flint, Mich., and our townsman, Edwin C. His second wife was Elizabeth A. Jackson, of Newfane, who survives him. Their son Frank C. is a successful Physician in Chicago.

-oOo-

Glenwood, Oct. 10th, 1896

Mr. A. W. Baker:-- Mendon

Dear Cousin: --

We rec'd your letter yesterday, and was real glad to hear from you again. We are all as well as usual. Just returned from Sister Mary's last night, they are all well as also Joseph's folks the last we heard. Must not forget to tell you of your new cousin and our new sister. Joseph was married the 31st. of July last to Mrs. Amanda Hardy of Tabor. We are entirely unacquainted with her though she has lived in Tabor for some time. He is 69 and she 58 years of age. She has traded her Tabor property for a farm 6 miles S of that place where they have now moved and were well the last we heard. Sister Mary and I visited Cousin Sarah Brown a year ago and Joseph and his daughter were there after cold weather came. Their daughter, Fannie, was married the 11th. of last Nov. to William Olinger of Thayer where he is in the drug business and is also P. M. Leon was 21 about a year ago but still lives at home. I hear frequently from Mass. Our Miner cousins are all dead, unless Emeline, who was the last I knew, in the Insane Asylum, at Northampton, still lives. Mrs. Crandall Thorn is still living, has been all summer at D. E. Miners (not our cousins) was, the last letter I had at cousin Mary's Bells', has set a time to go home, but was too feeble to go at that time. Her proper home is with Prudence at Springfield. Cousin Mary's son, Willie, hurt himself lifting (felt something give way in his side) while getting in his last load of hay last year, and has not been able to do anything since, was so bad in the winter they were afraid he would live but a short time, but is better now so he can walk around, but can do no work. He

was as nice a boy as you ever saw, steady and industrious, is about 21 years old now. I have learned nothing about our ancestry since I wrote you last. I am most

Affectionately and truly yours,

W. H. Shepardson.

-ooo-

Home, Feb. 27th. 1898

Dear Cousin:--

Your letter came above a week ago, thought to have written sooner but have just now got about it. We are tolerably well. Lucinda and Salome have both had hard colds but are better now. Have had no cold myself. Bro. Jos' was poorly all fall and first of winter but is better. Sister Mary's folks are well as far as I have heard. Mrs. Jas. Kennody (Joseph's daughter who lives in Tabor) has been sick most of the time for four or five months but was able to be about and to work some a week ago. Joseph lives on a farm belonging to his present wife, five or six miles north of Sidney and 15 or 16 miles south and a little east of here. His first wife was a widow with three little girls, her maiden name was Jane Clemens, her first husband's name was Daniel Felch, she died about a dozen years ago when they were living at Red Cloud, Neb. She was a cousin of the Burdicks, and was brought here for burial. My oldest sister Mary married Jonah M. Parsons who died Nov. 1st., 1876. He went across the plains in 1849 to dig gold in California, was gone three or four years, they were married in 1853, raised three children, all grown up long ago, but none of them married, they all live together some twenty miles from here, 2 miles from Percival on the K. C. R. R. (and 7 or 8 miles farther north than Nebr. City) on the east side and about a mile from the Missouri River. He made enough in the diggings so they have always been in comfortable circumstances. He served three years as a Sergeant in Co. F. 15 Regt. Iowa Infantry, the Regt. to which I belonged. My youngest sister married James Lambert, she died in 1886, leaving nine children, five of whom are married and all are grown and live within twenty miles of here, though two of the younger boys lived for a time in Oregon and Washington. Had a letter from Cousin Sarah Brown Jan 19 and had just written to her when your letter came. She spoke of not having written to you for so long and it seems each of you were afraid the other had died. She always has the hay fever every fall, this winter rather more trouble with her lungs than usual; was out election day and not again till the day before Christmas, had not been to meeting this winter. Have visited them twice, once by myself and again with Sister Mary 2 years ago. Their daughter, Fannie was married a year ago last fall to Wm. Olsinger. We were all invited to the wedding and Jos' and his daughter expected to go. They had the promise of a R. R. pass whenever they wanted to go anywhere, so they sent for it, but it came just too late, but they thought as they had missed the wedding they would go and make a visit and did so. Cousin Sarah was here and made us a visit three years ago, stayed some 10 days and when she learned how well they got along at home wished that she had finished the two weeks. They have only 2, Fannie and Leon, who was just old enough to vote at the last Presidential election. They are comfortably situated, have plenty, a good farm and good buildings, wish you could visit them and us. The woman for whom you inquired, I don't seem to remember anything about, the name perhaps might have been blank. Please write soon, I remain, dear cousin, most affectionately and truly yours,

W. H. Shepardson

{Thorn Group of letters}.

Brattleboro, Vermont.

Feb. 3rd, 1893.

To Amozzo W. Baker
Mendon, Utah.

My Dear Kin:--

Your kind and welcome letter of the 27th ult. is before me, but it finds me in deep and sad depression. I am truly filled with mourning that two of our most distinguished and best loved citizens of our great republic, are taken from their great spheres of usefulness and now are no more. I refer to Ex-President Hayes and James G. Blaine. I am much pleased for the contents of your letter, besides all the good cheer, were those three pictures, one of yourself and two of my dear old father who died with me 3 years ago come the 4th day of March.

It is remarkable that these pictures were taken some where, where he was then living, and then crossed the Rocky Mountains in the Valley of Utah, when they were copied and new life, as it were, put into them, and then sent to me, for a comfort to me in my weary trials as I journey on. You certainly have been very kind and I wish that could reward you. If I only had a good picture of myself, I would send it to you, but I have not.

I have been ill and confined so long, that it has not been convenient for me to go to the Artist to obtain any.

My health is quite as good as it was three years ago, but I am still unable to walk a step. I get around in my wheel chair same as I did, can go through all the doors to the first story of our house and then can wheel on the veranda, which is 40 feet long. There is the same amount of room in the 2nd. story of our house, five good square rooms but I have not been in those rooms but twice for more than eight years, but within a short time I have been gotten up there by going up backwards. The stairs are winding, on a circle, there are 24 of them and the ceiling is 12 ft., making a rise of 12 feet in the stairs. I sit on the bottom stair, with my back to the stairs, and then by firmly clasping the moulds I backed myself up to the next landing and here I was lifted into a low rocking chair and by this could be drawn into every room. This journey made me very lame for a few days but no thing serious as I sat in a rocking chair, by which I could be drawn into every room in the 2nd. story; here I stayed till well rested, then I slid down to my place of starting. I suffered nothing from this journey except being made very lame, so much so that for a few days it was hard for me to get into and out of bed. My lameness is confined mostly to my back, ankles, and badly in my knees. I have given up hopes of ever being able to walk again, but if I can be kept comfortable and so that I can sleep nights and will try and be thankful for God's many mercys. You ask me to tell you all I can about those friends of mine in Old Leyden, I know but very little of them; it is now more than forty years since that was my home and knew the people.

Of late years it has been very rare that I have visited the home of my childhood and most of those that I knew then have passed over that dark river which we have all got to pass sooner or later. There was a time when I thought I knew every man, woman, and child that lived in that vicinity, but soon I came here to Brattleboro and here have lived since. Here I was twice married and here my family grew up, four sons, three by my first wife and one by the 2nd. My youngest son has recently graduated at the Chicago College of Physicians and Surgeons, and now is in practice in Chicago and reports tell that he is doing well.

I had a delightful call from Wm. H. Shepardson when he came east some two years ago. I was made sad by not seeing more of him. It was nothing but a call he made me. He and I were children together, and thought much of each other. He is a noble man. We have corresponded some since his return. I am a true Patriot, a great lover of our Country. I admire all who are working for its good. The same true, loyal spirit that animated our Grandfather, makes me love and respect "Benjamin Harrison", our true and loyal President.

Deacon Benjamin Baker, was regarded by all who knew him, as a pattern of "God's" noblest work.

Such at this distant date, we look back on him to be:

"Oh! that our children could raise up and call us Blessed".

Yours most truly--

(signed). I. W. Thorn.

-oOo-

Battleboro, Vermont

March 4th., 1890

A. W. Baker

Mendon, Cache Co., Utah.

My Dear Sir;

Your letter of Febr. 22nd., is to hand. It found me much as I was two years ago. I am still unable to walk but can get around the house in a wheel chair. The past winter has been a hard winter for me, and many of about my age have passed away. I think the weather has had much to do with the health.

It seems to me that it has rained half the time since last July, never have I experienced so much continued wet weather.

We have no snow here at this time, except a little flurry none for sleighing, haven't had any this winter except one light fall which was all carried off by rain in a few days. Our people are wondering what they can do for ice the coming summer, as but little has been harvested yet, and the prospect of weather to make ice is not encouraging. The influenza or lagrippe has been very prevalent and has been the cause of many deaths, with pneumonia which often follows the Lagrippe. I expect that I have suffered from it. In your letter you spoke of Mr. William H. Shepardson and his visit to me. It was a great treat to see him, one who has been my playmate a long time since. I regreted that he should make his visit so short and also that my wife should be away from home the day that he was here.

Soon after he was here he sent me his photograph and then I wrote him a letter. He has written me two excellent letters, He writes an unusually interesting letter and I should judge him to be a man of ability and much information, and too, I think more of him because he went to the front in time of our Country's peril and helped to put down that wicked Rebellion. You ask me to tell more in regard to my Grand father's family, which I am unable to tell. There is not a scrap of record in regard to him that I have any knowledge of. Grandfather had a large family Bible, which my father had when Grandfather got through with it. But that Bible contained not one record, until my sister Eunice recorded in it my father's family and no more. She evidently would have entered more if she could have had reliable dates, or any family record. I lived from home most of the time till I was sixteen, but I remember of my mother often talking about a family record and did not like to have it defaced. It is there, for impossible for me to hardly tell correctly in what order my Grandfather's family was born. I think Uncle Samuel was the eldest, then came Aunt Rebecca, Edith, Polly, then Henry, my father. Then Aunt Prudence, and Uncle Crandal the youngest. I am surprised that you should have the picture of my father and Uncle Crandal; I was not aware that any picture of them were in existence. Father once had a small daguerreotype of himself, but I know of no other. We were very careless in not obtaining some more before he died. Neither have I one of my mother's. She was born in Halifax, Windham Co., Vermont, Dec. 28th, 1795. So you see that she was some six months older than Father. My father and all Grandfathers 7 children were born in Leyden, Franklin Co. Mass, on the same place where he moved to from Stonington, New London Co. Conn.

Their first frame house was on a round knoll, quite an elevation above the brook that passed through his land, and on which was a Saw and Grist mill, and was just one mile from Guilford and straight in line. A little from the road leading from Guilford to Coleraine was their long low frame house, where my father's sister spun and wove the beautiful white white linen and nice bed cloths that they showed me when I visited them in 1845.

There is quite an interesting legend that Grand-father used to tell about his Father, Isaac Thorn, I have listened to him with much interest when I was but a lad, and better than many more recent events. Grand-father was no ordinary man, had he been educated, he would have made a man of note. He had a remarkable memory and could tell all he had seen and know. He could repeat more of the Bible than any man I ever knew, and all without being able to read, learned by hearing Grand-mother read to him. He said his father was an Englishman born in England, and came to this country about the time of the old French and Indian War, settled in Rhode Island and married his wife there. Her maiden name was Crandall. She was a large woman, while his father was a small man, and was a shoemaker, and while at work one night at his trade, he had an occasion to go to the door, or out of doors, and never came back. They made all possible search for him, but no trace of him could be found. They lived by the Sea-shore or where the ships came in to the Bay or River, near by. This was when my Grand-father was a babe so he had no recollection of his father and all he knew in regard to his father, he learned from his mother. He lived in Rhode Island with his mother, till he was sixteen, and then enlisted in the Revolutionary Army. Taking his bounty money to his mother, he joined the patriot army in July and in seven years he marched and counter-marched from one end to the other of that historical soil. But I started to tell more about my Great-Grandfather, after he had been gone a long time, I cannot tell how long, a rumor came by a vessel from the West Indies that he was alive, and giving a long account of his captivity and sufferings, he was seized at his own door by a band of Freebooters, gagged, and bound, and carried on board a ship lying near, and thence taken to one of the West India Islands, where this gang of robbers had a cave, where they secreted their plunder; they had a large amount of money, mostly in Spanish Dosubtoons, and other Spanish coins. He tried to get away but could not, without endangering his life. At last, an opportunity presented itself, he got free from the gang and got to Cuba, when he was suddenly taken sick. He at once believed that he was poisoned and that he would not get well, and made arrangements that in some way, this report came to his wife. But this was all they ever heard in regard to him. This is just as my Grand-father used to tell it, and I have no doubt of the truth of it in the main. I think that I had better stop and not write more, I think you will be weary in trying to read what I have written. It is hard for me to write, I am in constant pain and it makes me nervous. I think you ask me to say something about the Mowry family. I can only say that there were three Bro's. settled here within one mile of Grand-father's, George Mowry, Richard Mowry, and John Mowry. George was a Justice of the Peace; Richard was a small farmer, and John had mills on the Green River. They are all now dead, and buried in the same place where Grand-father Thorn, and your Great-Grandfather Baker were buried.

Yours very truly

(Signed) J. N. Thorn

-oOo-

Brattleboro, Vermont

March 28th. 1894.

Mr. Amos W. Baker

My Dear Sir:--

Yours of the 6th. inst. was duly rec'd. I thought to have answered it before. It was very kind of you to write me at this time in my sorrow. I feel keenly the loss of my dear husband. He was a good, kind man. He was an invalid so long that I miss the care of him very much. He did not take one step for over eight years, considerable of that time he was perfectly helpless. My son Frank, the Dr. is in England, just at present, left New York the 3rd of February. How long he will be absent I cannot tell. When he returns he will be happy to make your nephew, George W. Baker's, acquaintance. You speak of wanting to know about Aunt

Edith. If you would communicate with Charles F. Thorn, Wilson Creek, Hogo Co., New York, you will find out all about her as she was his Grand-Mother. Aunt Prudence was the Mother of Mrs. Whitman Wheeler of Coleraine Mass. I will send you a photo of my husband, I have none of myself. If I ever have any taken I will send you one.

Yours very respectfully,

(Signed) E. A. Thorn.

-oOo-

Brattleboro, Vermont

June 12th 1886

Mr. Baker

Dear Sir:-- Your letter of the 22nd was duly rec'd and found Mr. Thorn in a condition which rendered it impossible for him to answer it personally, as he has been confined to his room for the past eight months suffering from rheumatism and other troubles, and is still in an almost helpless state. I am without recorded dates in regard to our Grandfather Henry Thorn, but know that he was born in Westerly Rhode Island, enlisted in the American Army at the age of sixteen, was in many of the principal battles of the Revolution, and at close of war was honorably discharged. He married Prudence Noyes of Stonington, Conn., and their children were seven in number, three sons and four daughters. All of whom are now dead. My father Henry Thorn, Jr. died March 4th. 1884 aged 88 years. He married Prudence Miner and she died in 1852. Their children were five in number of whom I alone survive. I was born in Leyden, Mass. in 1823, came to Brattleboro in 1847 and from that time till the past two years have been engaged in the Drug business and now fear that my days of labor are past. My family consists of my wife and four sons.

Name	Age.	Res.	Business
Isaac Benton	36	Brattleboro, Vt.	Druggist
Henry Lolington	34	Lawler, Iowa	Engineer
Cyrus Edwin	32	Hindsdale, N. H.	Druggist
Frank Arthur	26	Upton, Mass.	Druggist

We shall be happy to hear from you again and should I, in a measure, regain my health, I could assist you in gathering the facts that you desire, but in my present condition it is impossible for me to do more.

Very truly

E. A. Thorn

(Signed)

(For) Mrs. Thorn

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